

## Increased Iraqi contraband trade reported

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi contraband trade with Iran and Turkey has expanded following stricter Jordanian application of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. The Nicosia-based newsletter said a "significant volume" of Iraqi goods was being bartered for Turkish goods and products through a free trade zone established under Iraqi government control at Faydah, 50 kilometres south of the Turkish border. "It is further understood that a growing amount of trade is also taking place with Iran through the northern Kurdistan area, and that many of the smuggled goods eventually find their way to Mosul and Baghdad," MEES said. It said the Ministry of Military Industrialisation supplies the gas oil to Turkish buyers at Faydah at attractive prices. MEES said the increased trade with Turkey and Iran followed the "drying up" of trade through Jordan because of the Jordanian authorities' strict application since June of the U.N. sanctions. It also cited as a factor the execution by the Iraqis of 42 merchants for alleged profiteering, which led to many items becoming available in Iraq only at exorbitant prices.

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## UAE, Moroccan leaders discuss Arab rifts

ABU DHABI (R) — Morocco's Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali said Monday Arab countries should settle their many disputes and unite. Mr. Filali was speaking after talks in Abu Dhabi between Morocco's King Hassan and the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on ways of healing Arab rifts and promoting Middle East peace. "We are all agreed to work for a cure to the divisions in the Arab World and to turn the page on conflicts and start a new phase," Mr. Filali told the official Emirates News Agency. King Hassan arrived in the UAE Sunday, the second leg of a regional tour aimed at solving regional disputes and finding ways to push forward the Arab-Israeli peace talks. The Emirates News Agency quoted an official source as saying King Hassan and Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan discussed "ways of bringing together the Arabs and restoring Arab unity on a solid basis." Mr. Filali denied media reports that King Hassan was trying to convene an Arab summit. The King is due to travel to Jordan, Syria and Egypt after visiting the Gulf (See story below).

## Hariri begins cabinet talks

BEIRUT (AP) — Billionaire Rafik Hariri opened consultations Monday to form a new government. Mr. Hariri, who was named prime minister on Thursday, was holding talks with parliament blocs representing 86 deputies Monday. He was to poll rest of the 128 parliament members Tuesday.

## Kuwaiti MPs want invasion file probe

JAWAIT (R) — Thirty-two Kuwaiti members of parliament (MPs) have called for the establishment of a committee to probe the conduct after Iraq's invasion two years ago, a parliamentary source and newspapers said Monday. The source said they presented the motion Sunday and the deputies demanded a debate on the issue. He expected the debate would take place Tuesday. During the recent parliament election campaign, the opposition called an investigation of official conduct after the Iraqi invasion. Iraqi troops took just a few hours to cross Kuwait City after crossing the border on Aug. 2, 1990. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has said he would not pose such an investigation.

## Peres cuts short tour

AMMAN (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres cut short a European tour Monday to return to Israel after learning his wife had suffered a heart attack. Israeli spokesman said Mr. Peres arrived in Madrid Monday morning on a two-day visit to Spain, part of his first European tour since returning to government following the June 23 victory of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party. The spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Peres learned of his wife Sonia's heart attack after he finished lunch with the Minister Felipe Gonzalez, the spokesman said. Mrs. Peres is in stable condition. Mr. Peres met with King Juan Carlos Sunday morning.

## Demirel in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived in Tehran Monday for a day official visit. Tehran radio reported. The broadcast said Mr. Demirel and his delegation were received at Mehrabad airport by Iran's vice president, Hassan Habib. Iran and Turkey, along with Pakistan, are the founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation, which calls for favoured trading member countries. Nevertheless, ties between Tehran and Ankara have been rocky over the last few years, and Mr. Demirel's visit is clearly aimed at ironing out some of the differences between neighbouring countries.

## Qatar sentences 6 Indians to jail terms

WAIT (AP) — Qatar has sentenced two Asian workers to six months in prison for illegal entry into the country, diplomats said Monday. Gul Azim Khan, a Pakistani, and Nicanor Factoran, a Filipino, were moving earth for a new clearing company in the newly marked border zone when they were picked up by Qatari security Aug. 20. "We don't know when the sentence was served, but we are appealing to a court," MIA Mahmoud said. The labour attaché at the Pakistani embassy, told the Associated Press. Quirrol Ico, Philippine consul-general, said the Qatari court had sentenced the two to six months in prison.

## Russian sub steams south to Iran

TSAID (AP) — A Russian submarine sailed to Iran last month, Moscow suspended the of submarines to Tehran, the Suez Canal Sunday's way to the Red Sea. Canal Russian officials kept a secret of the passage of the submarine, and it was not recorded in the convoy passing from north. But canal officials confirmed a Russian submarine sailed through the canal, heading for the Gulf. No further details were available.

# Israel unleashes fury on Lebanon

## Jets, helicopters and tanks hammer Lebanese villages

NABATIYEH (Agencies) — Israel's air force jets and helicopters blasted South Lebanon in three separate raids and its artillery unleashed a heavy barrage Monday to avenge a guerrilla bombing that killed five Israeli soldiers.

Sunday's bombing, claimed by Hizbollah, was the deadliest attack in two years against Israel's forces in its self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon. It sharply raised tension in the volatile region as Israeli and Arab negotiators held a seventh round of peace talks in Washington. Israeli army confirmed that its air force warplanes and helicopters struck Lebanon Monday and also that its artillery and tanks took action against suspected guerrilla hideouts.

The Israeli military command said in a statement that its air force planes and helicopters struck "terrorist targets and homes of people who helped the terrorists." It said that among the targets hit were command centres and other buildings that served the fundamentalist Hizbollah.

The dusk air raid by six F-15 warplanes on Iqlim Al Tuffah, a mountainous province above Sidon provincial South Lebanon, climaxed the day's violence and sparked an exodus from the region, police said. "The Israeli army and security forces will pursue and capture the murderers and their leaders," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the opening session of parliament.



An Israeli soldier jumps out of his jeep Sunday in front of the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, the occupied West Bank, near to where an Israeli soldier was shot dead (AFP photo)

ment as the five soldiers were being buried.

Mr. Rabin said he held the Beirut government and Syria responsible for curbing Hizbollah which he said wanted to derail the peace talks.

Israel's U.S.-sponsored talks with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians resumed in Washington Monday after a weekend break.

"It is difficult to understand how on the one hand (Syria) is

with us in negotiations and on the other allow this kind of activity," Mr. Rabin told a meeting of his centre-left coalition before addressing the Knesset.

"We are determined to continue with the talks and operate against terror within the law. I see no contradiction between the two," Mr. Rabin said.

Just before the shelling began, army chief Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak warned Hizbollah. "We will continue to work to

bring them down and to exact a high price from the perpetrators," Gen. Barak told reporters.

Hizbollah, fighting to drive Israel from Lebanon, said it blew up an Israeli convoy Sunday, its deadliest attack since it killed seven Israelis four years ago.

Israel responded by firing more than 200 shells within a few hours of the start of the barrage around noon (1000 GMT), a United Nations spokesman said.

Israeli sources described the

bombardment as the most concentrated in years.

"It is some of the heaviest shelling in memory," one Israeli security source said.

The army said tanks joined in the bombardment.

Israel has often launched air strikes against Hizbollah and its leaders. In February it killed Sheikh Abbas Musawi, his wife, son and six bodyguards in a helicopter attack.

Israel also kidnapped leading Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid in 1989.

Mr. Rabin came under pressure from hardline politicians to withdraw Israel's delegation from the peace talks in retaliation for the attacks, including one Sunday in the West Bank town of Hebron that killed one Israeli soldier.

The attacks in Lebanon and the West Bank are likely to hamper Mr. Rabin's efforts to prepare Israeli opinion for "concessions" to Syria and the Palestinians at the peace talks.

Government officials warned militant Jewish settlers that vigilante actions against Arabs would worsen security problems in the occupied territories.

More than 600 settlers converged on Mr. Rabin's home Sunday night chanting "Rabin go home." They later tried to storm the King David Hotel, where Mr. Rabin was dining with visiting Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva.

The latest killings topped a

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# Israel says violence could disrupt talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Middle East peace talks resumed Monday with Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich asserting that the deaths of five Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon could have a negative impact on the discussions.

"It is very unfortunate and also is very unfortunate for the talks," Mr. Rabinovich said on arrival at the State Department after a three-day recess.

The deaths of the five Israelis and the wounding of eight others in southern Lebanon followed an upsurge in violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Syrian negotiator Mowaffaq Alfal said he was concerned about statements by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Israel does not plan to pull back fully from the Golan Heights.

"If Israel is not considering withdrawal, that means in other words that Israel is not consider-

ing peace," Mr. Alfal said. "Peace without withdrawal is impossible and it is a precondition for peace really for Israeli forces (to) withdraw from all occupied territories."

Mr. Rabinovich and Mr. Alfal represent their respective delegations on the Israeli-Syrian track of the peace process. There was no comment from delegates taking part in the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Jordanian spokesman Marwan Musasher said that there were still basic differences between the Jordanian and Israeli sides, particularly on issues related to occupied Jordanian lands and refugees.

Dr. Musasher said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that what was discussed during the first session of the seventh round of the bilateral talks was ways of finding a joint formula which would at least enable both sides to agree on an agenda for negotiations.

These attempts would take long time because the stands are now clear and some issues under discussion are the core of an old dispute between the two parties, he said.

He added that there was an attempt to bridge the gap between the two sides on various issues, such as occupied Jordanian lands, refugees and security. The Israeli delegation had offered some proposals and so did the Jordanian delegation and no agreement was so far reached, he added.

"What is currently being done is to develop proposed formulas by the two sides to reach a joint draft," he said.

Mr. Rabinovich suggested that the violence against the Israelis could have an impact on the opinion of Israelis towards the peace process.

"Israeli public opinion needs to be persuaded that our Arab negotiating partners are in it for real and with good intentions. And

this type of violence is not at all helpful," he said.

He noted that Syria has influence in Lebanon but that the Lebanese situation is not a part of the agenda in the Israeli-Syrian talks.

Mr. Rabinovich added, however, the patience of the Israeli people and the Israeli government is not "unlimited" in this regard and that violence cannot "proceed forever on the various negotiating tracks."

Mr. Alfal said the purpose of the negotiations is to get rid of situations that give rise to violence.

"I think we have to speed the peace process in a manner to put an end to such violence and also to put an end to violence against the Palestinian population in the occupied territory," he said. "I think as long as there is occupation, unfortunately, such incidents will take place."

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# Israel proposes regional centre on environment

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — Israel Monday proposed the establishment of a multinational centre to contain the expanding Middle Eastern desert, which is hurting the quality of life in the region.

The Palestinians promised to study the proposal, but a spokesman said it was too early in the peace process to agree to joint environmental projects.

"We all recognise the encroaching desert as our common adversary," said Israel Peleg, head of the Israeli delegation to talks here on environmental cooperation between Arabs and Israelis.

"As the desert expands, the quality of life in the Middle East diminishes. Desertification means salination of the land, deterioration of the soil, erosion and reduction of soil quality."

"For time immemorial people in the Middle East have struggled to keep the desert at bay. Now we have to combat this desertification together," he said.

As the seventh round of the main Arab-Israeli peace talks continued in Washington, 38 delegations from Middle East states, the United Nations, the World Bank and other countries here focussed on how a pollution-free coastline could attract tourists.

Top of the agenda is how to clean up the Gulf of Aqaba, which is bordered by Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Cleaning up the waterway would bring benefits to Israel, with its beach resort at Eilat. Jordan and Egypt also hope to stimulate tourism along its coral-studded coastline.

"The Gulf of Aqaba is a place that is dear to all parties," said Mr. Peleg. "All of us want to protect the coral reefs and all of us know that oil spills and other kinds of pollution know no boundaries," Mr. Peleg told Reuters.

Ways of fighting sea pollution in the Eastern Mediterranean will also be discussed, as well as other joint environmental programmes.

Palestinian delegation spokesman Akram Bakr reiterated the

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# 'Visit of King Hassan to give impetus to peace process'

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Monday that a planned visit to Jordan by King Hassan of Morocco Wednesday was in the course of a tour of Arab states aimed at settling inter-Arab differences and giving impetus to the Middle East peace efforts.

"The visit is a blessed step because it aims at ending inter-Arab differences and is very important for Jordan and the other Arab states involved in the peace process," the minister said.

"Ending inter-Arab differences is of paramount importance under the present circumstances and while the peace process continues because the Arab parties in this process are badly in need of continued support from Arab countries to ensure the success of this process," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Dr. Abu Jaber said the reported French draft plan had not

Referring to a reported draft plan drawn up by France on the interpretation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "The resolution is quite clear and has been accepted by all countries, including the major powers. The world community ought to remain committed to that resolution."

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the draft, which was reportedly conveyed to Egypt by France, is a great seriousness.

"As we are in the midst of the seventh round of Arab-Israeli negotiations, we call on the Arab countries to fully study this draft legally and politically in order to determine its implications," he said.

Dr. Abu Jaber said the reported French draft plan had not

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# Jordan calls for world support of peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day conference opened in Amman Monday to discuss means of promoting the cause of peace in the Middle East and issues of concern to the countries of the region.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who stood in for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening ceremony, reviewed the Jordanian stand and the country's endeavours towards the attainment of a just and durable peace.

"What the region needs is a permanent and sustainable peace and Jordan is seeking serious international efforts towards this goal," Dr. Abu Jaber told the audience of delegates representing peace groups in seven Arab countries and several world organisations.

"For Jordan, peace is a strategic objective, which is being

sought in implementing U.N. resolutions and in harmony with international legitimacy," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

"We do not seek a truce, a temporary respite, in the long-drawn Arab-Israeli conflict, but rather an honourable peace acceptable to future generations," the minister said.

Besides seeking implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 to attain peace in the region, Jordan supports the idea of disarmament and the elimination of mass destruction weapons," he added.

Dr. Abu Jaber said Jordan supports all efforts aimed at banning nuclear tests and the creation of nuclear-free zones, including the Middle East region.

He said Jordan calls on Israel and other nations to sign the

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# U.N. asks Iraq to reveal if it has hidden arms sites

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.N. inspectors have held a marathon, 11-hour meeting with Iraq's arms experts to try to force it to disclose any hidden information or sites, U.N. sources said Monday.

"This is very important for Iraq," said a senior U.N. official of the U.N. demand. "If they cooperate, it will make our task easier," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We still have miles to go."

Last week, the American CBS Television Network said the United Nations had been provided with satellite photographs of an Iraqi facility suspected of being a secret nuclear centre. But the inspectors here said they were not aware of such photographs.

Iraq has denied repeatedly that it has any nuclear weapons or is in the process of reactivating its pre-Gulf war atomic projects.

U.N. weapons team leader Nikita Smidovich, a Russian, confirmed that the weekend meeting with the Iraqi experts took place, but declined to com-

ment on what transpired.

"We have already spent one-and-a-half years investigating the Iraqi programmes, we have got an extensive picture, but it is far from being completed," Mr. Smidovich said Monday.

He spoke before setting out with 45 ballistic, nuclear and chemical experts for a tour of unspecified Iraqi arms sites.

The inspectors, who arrived in Baghdad on Oct. 16, have been rummaging through arsenal across Iraq without an off day. The team is scheduled to end its mission Friday.

Mr. Smidovich said the weekend meeting was a normal procedure: "It is part of our inspection."

But other U.N. sources said the team has collected enough information that needed "Iraqi replies and elucidation."

"It is a very time-taking and complex process," said one source. "The experts go through each and every missing link and try to clear doubts."



## Pentagon protested 'weak' message to Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Pentagon objected to President George Bush's "weak" response to Iraq as it massed troops on Kuwait's border, a former Defense Department official said Sunday.

Henry S. Rowen said that he and his Pentagon deputy, Arthur Hughes, urged the State Department to have Mr. Bush send a more strongly worded message to President Saddam Hussein in the days leading up to Iraq's invasion in 1990.

"That message was unnecessarily weak," Mr. Rowen, ex-assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, said in a telephone interview. The New York Times first reported Mr. Rowen's objections on Sunday.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater dismissed Mr. Rowen's comments as someone simply trying "to embarrass the president" during a heated presidential campaign in which Mr. Bush is narrowing the gap.

Mr. Bush's message to President Saddam said that "I was pleased to learn of the agreement between Iraq and Kuwait to begin negotiations... to find a peaceful solution to the current tensions between you."

A few days after it was sent, Iraqi troops crossed into Kuwait. Mr. Rowen said Mr. Hughes showed him the proposed language on July 27, 1990 and that "we were both concerned. Art said he thought he could word it more strongly and I said 'have at it.'"

Mr. Hughes "proposed more forceful language conveying that we were worried about the consequences of what was taking place, that the situation was grave, and that we had an interest in all of this," said Mr. Rowen.

"It wasn't hard to think of something better" than the proposed language which was eventually sent, said Mr. Rowen, Iraqi "troops were already moving" up to the edge of Kuwait. Mr. Rowen added.

The Bush administration's dealings with Iraq have come under increasing scrutiny in recent weeks and have become an issue in the presidential campaign.

Mr. Fitzwater responded that there are a lot of people trying "to embarrass the president by saying, 'I told him to do this and he didn't want to do it. I advised him to be tough and he was weak or strong.' It's crazy."

"The fact is we're closing this race, we're getting close and a lot of people are getting scared," said Mr. Fitzwater.

In another development, it was reported Sunday that Bush administration officials ignored emerging evidence of Iraqi involvement in an Atlanta bank scandal in 1985 and continued providing Baghdad with aid to avoid straining relations.

Newly-released government documents show U.S. officials were aware that evidence pointed to Iraqi complicity in the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) loan

scheme and strongly suggested that Iraq swapped U.S. food for arms, the Los Angeles Times and Washington Post said.

But those officials failed to divulge that information to a government committee at a key moment when it could have curtailed aid to Iraq, according to documents released by the Senate Agriculture Committee, which has been investigating the Department of Agriculture loan guarantees to Iraq before its troops invaded Kuwait.

The Washington Post said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker personally intervened to extend loan guarantees to Iraq despite warnings from a federal prosecutor that Iraqi officials were implicated in criminal wrong-doings with earlier guarantees.

President Bush at the time had just signed a top-secret order mandating closer ties to Iraq. Yet some administration officials were proposing to stop the major U.S. aid programme for Iraq, and U.S. intelligence agencies were warning that Iraq was engaged in a global arms buying effort.

In August 1989, federal agents raided the Atlanta branch of Italy's BNL and found evidence of \$5 billion in fraudulent loans to Iraq. Nearly \$2 billion was guaranteed by the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The administration was proposing another \$1 billion in CCC guarantees, but the Federal Reserve, Department of Treasury and Export-Import Bank had re-

servations about Iraq's ability to pay the loans, according to press accounts.

As evidence grew of Iraqi involvement in the BNL scandal, the Department of Agriculture proposed trimming the aid to \$400 million, but Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told U.S. officials that was unacceptable, the Times said.

In an Oct. 13, 1989 memo, Frank Lemay, a State Department official, wrote that Kevin Brosch, a Department of Agriculture official dispatched to Atlanta to check on the BNL probe, had told him the investigators expressed grave concern about Iraqi involvement, the Times reported.

Mr. Lemay said Brosch had stated that American goods bought with CCC guarantees might have been traded for arms and some funds might have gone for nuclear weapons technology, according to the memo cited by the Times.

Then-Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter suspended all talks with Iraq on new CCC aid on Oct. 12, but Mr. Baker persuaded him to restore the full \$1 billion. The final decision rested with an interagency group called the National Advisory Council.

A report given to its Nov. 8 meeting blamed suspicions of Iraqi arms purchases on a clerical error, played down pressure on U.S. exporters for bribes and did not mention that CCC aid might have bought nuclear technology, the Times said.



SHADOW OF OCCUPATION: An old Palestinian waits at a roadblock set up by Israeli soldiers shortly after an Israeli soldier was shot dead in an attack, which, according to the Israeli army, was carried out by a Palestinian (AFP photo)

## Half-century later, old soldiers at Alamein honour fallen comrades

By Mimi Mann  
The Associated Press

AL ALAMEIN — Bugles and bagpipes broke the desert stillness Sunday as former enemies gathered to honour comrades they lost 50 years ago in the decisive battle of Alamein.

War widows walked row after row of sun-blasted memorials looking for the loved one who never returned. A Maori in black cried and rubbed his palm again and again on a memorial wall containing thousands of names of men with no known graves.

Old soldiers wore wide-brimmed hats — New Zealanders panamas, Australians jaunty bigger hats, Italians with black feathered hats — as they walked in the wind.

A convoy of World War II German and Italian staff cars cruised along the dusty coastal highway from Alexandria towards Alamein's battlefields. A German veteran in a touring cap and goggles eagerly waved to passersby.

Alamein's main commemoration ceremony was celebrated outside the German memorial, a fortress mausoleum on a Mediterranean hillside, site of major fighting and massive loss of life.

Since 1978 the main service has rotated among Al Alamein's three major memorials: honouring German, Italian and Commonwealth dead.

On the 50th anniversary, private services followed at the Commonwealth, Italian and Greek memorials. Greece's Holy Brigade, a British-trained command unit, fought with Commonwealth troops at Al Alamein.

British Prime Minister John Major and Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, son of victorious leader Bernard Lord Montgomery, represented the Commonwealth.

wealth. The Duke of Kent represented Queen Elizabeth II. Premier Pierre Bergeyov of France and Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis joined other dignitaries at the main service. Germany's delegation was headed by the minister for research and technology, Heinz Riesenhuber. Defence Minister Salvo Ando attended for Italy.

The service is held on the Sunday nearest Oct. 23, when under a full moon the battle of Alamein began with two sounds: The roar of 1,000 Commonwealth guns against German and Italian forces, and then the bagpipes.

"It was the sound of the bagpipes you never forget. For a Highlander, bagpipes stir the blood. A Highlander either goes forward or gets killed. He's never captured," said Duncan McLean, waiting in the McLean Tartan Kilts for the main Commemoration service to begin.

McLean, of St. Andrews, left many friends at Alamein. "So many Highlanders died. The pride of Scotland. Boom," he said.

South African Archie Vorster was with British intelligence, several kilometres away from the front, when the battle began. "The sounds of the guns was dreadful," he said. "By morning, dusk choked the sea."

Vorster, of Middleburg, Cape Province, came with one of three units of South African veterans. This year's service marked the first time in 32 years a South African has attended, and for most of the South African veterans, the first time since the battle.

The First South African Division, the 51st Highland Division, the 9th Australian division and the New Zealand division were in the forefront of some of Al-

meins most brutal fighting. Vorster said Alamein was like a sea battle, fought on land. He praised not only the South African fighting men but also the Germans, his enemies.

"The Germans were the finest soldiers I've ever seen. Professional soldiers," he said. "We were eager volunteers getting our training in the desert."

After 10 days of brutal warfare, victory belonged to the Commonwealth, but at a staggering cost: 72,500 killed, wounded or captured.

One of the fallen in the battles that raged around Al Alamein in 1942 was Douglas A. Ingram, a Londoner.

"I think I remember most his sense of humour. He was always so funny," said James Mallott, a rifleman at Alamein who was Ingram's best buddy.

"He was the first to fall at Alam Al Halfa. They came in and said, 'guess who got killed today?' Doug. After that we didn't have time to count."

Mallott has visited the Commonwealth cemetery at Al Alamein three times. Sunday, he placed a small cross with a red poppy at the top. Written below was "To Doug a mate."

George O'Neill of Grahamstown, South Africa, was a prisoner of the Italians when Alamein began. He broke free in Europe, fought again and again, finally alongside the Polish resistance.

"You know what I think most about today?" O'Neill asked. "Their fidelity of war. There's no winner in war."

"Look at Germany and Japan. After the war, they poured their money into the economy. We kept pouring our money into the military. Now, they have us in a stranglehold."

## No change in French stand on Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Premier Pierre Bergeyov said Sunday that sending a French judge to Tripoli to investigate Libyans suspected of bombing a UTA plane does not reflect a change in France's position regarding U.N. sanctions against Libya.

Mr. Bergeyov was speaking at a joint news conference with President Hosni Mubarak following a two-hour meeting and a working state dinner.

The French premier arrived in the coastal city of Alexandria early Sunday to attend ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the battle of Al Alamein, a turning point in World War II. He came afterwards to Cairo for talks with Mr. Mubarak.

"Justice should take its course. France's position has not changed up until now," he said.

"Wisdom requires the Libyan government to recognise the cor-

rect pace of the judicial investigation," Mr. Bergeyov added.

"However," Bergeyov said, "we did not discuss this subject here."

Four Libyans were suspected to have bombed the French plane over Niger in 1989, killing 170 people. Two other Libyans were suspected of having done the same to a Pan Am Airliner in 1988, killing 270 people, prompting the U.N. Security Council to impose arms, diplomatic and air sanctions against Libya.

On Saturday, British Prime Minister John Major, who was also here for the Al Alamein ceremonies, told a news conference attended by Mr. Mubarak that sanctions will remain until Libya hands over the suspects for trial either in Britain or the United States.

Both Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Bergeyov said they discussed the Middle East peace process,

the situation in the Gulf, developments on the international scene and bilateral relations.

Mr. Bergeyov said he conveyed a message from French President Francois Mitterrand to Mr. Mubarak. He said Mr. Mitterrand wanted to learn about Mr. Mubarak's ideas on the Middle East peace process before the two men meet shortly in Paris to continue the exchange.

The French premier said he got some ideas from Mr. Mubarak but refused to elaborate. Expressing sympathy, he said France has agreed to assist in reconstructing one Cairo district, which was damaged by the Oct. 12 earthquake.

He did not provide any details but France and Egypt meanwhile signed a trade protocol granting Egypt a loan payable over 25 years with 0.7 per cent interest rate and a grace period of five years.

## Saudis, Turks to shelter Bosnians

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi and Turkish businessmen will provide shelter for 10,000 Muslim orphans from Bosnia-Herzegovina, members of the Saudi-Turkish Friendship Society disclosed Sunday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the society representatives said the plan was recently approved by Turkish Prime Minister Suleiman Demirel.

The children will be taken from camps in Germany, Italy and Croatia to Turkey and Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus, an enclave for the Muslim Turkish Cypriot minority.

The orphans will be housed in special reception centres and will attend school.

Representatives of the society declined further details. They only noted that help for orphans is ordered by the Koran.

They noted that the businessmen fear the Bosnian children will lose their Islamic heritage if they remain in non-Muslim countries.

Saudi Arabia, the spiritual centre of Islam, has been instrumental in providing aid for destitute Bosnian Muslims.

In late September, the International Islamic Relief Organisation, which is based in Jeddah, agreed to sponsor 90,000 Muslim refugees who have been forced out of the neighbouring republic of Croatia.

The organisation's programme provides shelter, health care and education for the refugees at an estimated cost of \$6 million a month.

As the winter draws closer, the Saudis are intensifying donation campaigns in the aid of Muslim victims of wars and natural disasters in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Somalia and Egypt.

Air and sea bridge, medical supplies, tents and blankets, donated by the government with contributions from individuals, are going to all four destinations.

## Embassies warn tourists in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — The embassies of the United States, Britain and Australia have alerted their nationals to stay out of militant Muslim strongholds in Upper Egypt, the scene of communal violence and attacks on tourists.

Muslim militants seeking to turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state have attacked foreign tourists three times in a month and in one case killed a British woman.

Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan told Reuters the government planned to tighten security to protect tourists. He said the attacks were "individual incidents which do not reflect the general feelings of Egyptians."

The three embassies said Monday the travel advice, the first issued by Western governments about Egypt in recent times, did not apply to major tourist sites such as Luxor and Aswan but only to areas known to be militant strongholds.

The pyramids at Giza, on the edge of Cairo, were not included in the list of places to avoid.

Militants resent what they see as privileged treatment given to tourists by the government and object to foreigners behaving in ways abhorrent to strict Muslims, such as wearing revealing clothes and drinking alcohol.

"The government cautioned American citizens against travelling to Minya and Assiut provinces, particularly the town of Dayut and surrounding areas," a spokeswoman at the American embassy in Cairo said.

Tourism is Egypt's biggest foreign exchange earner, generating \$3 billion in the year to last July, and its government is very sensitive to any suggestion that foreigners should change their travel plans.

Many of the three million people who visit Egypt each year are Americans and Europeans attracted by the country's magnificent monuments ranging from Pharaonic pyramids, tombs and temples to medieval mosques.

The British embassy said it has issued a "travel advice" to its citizens pointing out that there had been "repeated violent incidents" in Upper Egypt over the past two months, including the

ambush of a tourist bus on Oct. 21.

Egyptian police have detained a 17-year-old man suspected of involvement in an attack on a tourist bus in the southern Nile Valley, security sources said.

One British woman was killed and two British men were wounded last Wednesday when Muslim militants ambushed a safari bus near the town of Dayut, 270 kilometres south of Cairo.

They said the 17-year-old high school student was being questioned after several tourists from the bus picked him out from photographs as the man they saw standing in the road whistling a signal to hidden gunmen.

Police were still hunting two men they suspected of carrying out the shooting, the source added.

Three Russian tourists who were stabbed by a man believed to be a Muslim militant left Port Said on Monday after hospital treatment, security sources said.

Hospital sources said they were in good condition and their wounds from Sunday's attack were not serious.

The three Russians left Port Said early Monday on a tourist ship whose destination was not immediately known.

A deranged man Monday shot to death his father-in-law, and a Christian man, and wounded three Christians in Assiut, police said.

The man, Abdul Samie Taha, 42, left home early Monday morning and went to his father-in-law's house where he opened fire on him. He then proceeded to a public square and sprayed gunfire at random, killing a Christian Coptic shop-owner and wounding three other Copts standing nearby.

Police said Taha was a Muslim but not a member of the Gama' al Islamiya, which have been engaged in sectarian strife with Copts and in clashes with security forces. His father-in-law was also a Muslim, police said.

Taha ran away into nearby citrus orchards after his shooting spree, but was later caught. Police said his wife told them he was mentally deranged and under treatment.

## Israel, Portugal sign pact

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed an economic treaty with Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva Sunday, a statement from the prime minister's office said.

The treaty came on the first day of a three-day visit, the first by a Portuguese head of government to Israel. The visit comes a year after the opening of Portugal's embassy in Tel Aviv.

Portugal and Israel established relations in 1978, four years after a revolution overthrew nearly half-a-century of ultraconservative dictatorship in Portugal.

When Portugal held the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC) earlier this year it succeeded in securing a greater European presence in ongoing peace talks between Israel and the Arabs.

Mr. Rabin briefed Mr. Cavaco Silva on the ongoing U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, the statement said. It said the Israeli prime minister stressed that assistance and not intervention was the key to European involvement in the process.

Mr. Rabin's Labour government has welcomed greater European input into the talks than its right-wing Likud predecessors. The statement quoted Mr. Cavaco Silva as saying that Mr. Rabin's election in June lent Israel greater credibility in Europe.

Portugal adheres to the EC position of calling for Israel to grant Palestine self-determination.

During Mr. Cavaco Silva's visit, Portugal and Israel were also set to sign industrial, cultural and scientific accords. Mr. Cavaco Silva was also due to visit Christian holy sites and pay his respects at Holocaust memorial.

He was to meet with opposition leader and former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President Chaim Herzog.

Total trade between the two countries in 1991 was more than 12 billion escudos (\$89 million), with Portugal enjoying a healthy trade surplus.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Los Aventuras Bosco  
18:06 Michael Vaillant  
18:30 La Famille Random  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Documentary  
19:20 News in Hebrew  
19:30 News in Arabic  
20:30 Golden Girls  
21:15 Toca  
22:00 News in English  
22:15 When the Lion Roars

### PRAYER TIMES

6:35 Fajr  
12:40 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
13:20 Dhuhr  
15:30 'Asr  
17:50 Maghreb  
18:17 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440  
St. John Church Tel. 617757  
Church of the Holy Spirit Tel. 622366

### Church of the Annunciation Tel.

622366

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751

Assiut International Church Tel. 685306

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638526

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and some low clouds will appear, while winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 13/25

Aqaba 20/31

Desert 10/26

Jordan Valley 19/32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446

Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696098

Dr. Rami Al-Zawawi 894788

Dr. Farouk Nage 786880

Jawhara pharmacy 655183

Batash pharmacy 645199

Maher pharmacy 669737

Al-Dajani pharmacy 669820

Al-Abdali pharmacy 636121

Ayyad pharmacy 888735

Uthay pharmacy 898020

Bashar pharmacy 898020

IRSID:

Almad Bishawi 773925

Al-Rashdan pharmacy (773625)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rajah Saqr 901290

Ramsi pharmacy 995119

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 611111

Civil Defence Immediate 630541

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637177

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 843402

Highway Police 806290

Traffic Police 636221

Public Security Department 636221

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Abul Maternity, J. Amn 644412/2



## EC finances rehabilitation of water networks

AMMAN — The European Investment Bank (EIB) is lending 4.995 million for the improvement of the water distribution network of Irbid and Ramtha in northern Jordan. The loan provided under the third EC-Jordan financial protocol is for 20 years and benefits from a 2 per cent interest subsidy financed from community budgetary resources. The funds go to the government which on-lends them to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ).

Works due for completion by

late 1995 comprise the laying of some 600 km of polyethylene and iron pipes and the installation of 10,000 water metres. The improvements to the network will lead to a marked reduction of water losses presently reaching 40 per cent, while the metres will improve invoicing and income. Irbid and Ramtha, with a combined population of 215,000, are the largest urban centres in northern Jordan. The rehabilitation of their water distribution network is part of the government's programme for improving the pre-

servation and management of the country's limited water resources. The EIB has provided several loans in pursuit of this objective under the second and third financial protocols.

The present loan is the eighth in Jordan under the third protocol and fully utilises the 63 million euros foreseen for EIB loans. In addition, 2 million euros were provided in the form of risk capital assistance drawn from the community budget and managed by the bank.



PRINCESS ALIA AT THE THEATRE: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein attends the opening performance of "The Rahmeh" by Syrian artist Dureid Lahham. The play will be shown for the next four days from Sunday and is being presented at the Palace of Culture. The proceeds are to benefit charitable activities of the Young Women Muslim Association.

## Jordan, Russia to cooperate in energy

Jreisat proposes special U.N. fund to help oil, gas exploration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Kamal Jreisat returned to Amman Monday after participating in two seminars on the legal aspects of prospecting for oil and gas which concluded recently in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Mr. Jreisat said he presented working papers to two seminars on the possible future energy sources in Jordan. He said that he also held talks with officials from the St. Petersburg Oil Institute and the city's two geological studies institutes.

Jordan and the institutes have signed cooperation agreements in prospecting for oil and gas in the Kingdom, Mr. Jreisat said. The three cooperation agreements, he said, provide for exchanging expertise between the NRA and the institutes and conducting joint studies in cooperation with Jordanian universities, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Higher Council of Science and Technology. The aim of these studies will be utilising available data at these institutions. In the field of prospecting for gas, oil and other minerals, he added.

The agreements also provided for cooperation in exploiting shale oil and underground heat sources, in addition to developing sources of semi-precious metals, the NRA chief said.

He said Jordan and renewed Russian experts have also reached an agreement on conducting joint studies on the underground water situation in Jordan.

Mr. Jreisat also proposed the setting up of a special United Nations fund to help developing countries explore for oil and gas. The NRA director-general told the Jordan Times that the proposal, which was supported by all participants in the St. Petersburg meeting, envisaged contributions from members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to extend assistance to non-oil producing countries which may hold potential reserves of energy.

The main objectives of the fund, he said, will be to help the concerned countries to explore for oil and gas as well as other sources of energy such as shale oil and protect the environment in the process.

He said the funding proposal excluded oil-exporting countries whose production costs were high. "There are countries where oil is produced at very cheap and my proposal specifically targeted them," he said.

"Oil is and should be considered as a humanitarian commodity and no-one should deny it to any country through embargoes or otherwise," he added.

## 'Use water economically,' says minister

IRBID (Petra) — In view of the continued population growth in Jordan and the expansion of water related services, demand on water has increased. Nearly 179 million cubic metres of water were pumped to various regions in Jordan during 1991 but the country was still short of at least 85 million cubic metres.

In a lecture delivered at Yarmouk University, Director of Water Resources at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Kamel Radiadeh said that the public should economise in the use of water for different purposes while the ministry strives to find new

water resources to meet the ever growing demand.

"The water issue is on the minds of economists, decision makers, politicians and scientists around the world as well as in Jordan because water is directly linked to socio-economic development everywhere," he said. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation, he noted, was studying all possibilities for exploiting available and alternative water resources and is planning to cooperate more closely with neighbouring Arab countries to protect underground water resources.

Meanwhile, Minister of Water

and Irrigation Samir Kassar left for Rome at the head of a delegation to take part in a three-day conference on water. The minister said that the plans to submit a report on the water situation in Jordan to the conference which will discuss all aspects of water management including sanitary systems, dams, irrigation rationing, the water use, and spreading awareness among farmers in Mediterranean countries.

During the Rome meeting, which opens Wednesday, a general charter on the use of water for the countries in the region will be signed, according to the minister.

## Hikmat considers Siq facelift

By Maha Adadi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The issue of repaving the Siq that leads to Petra's Treasury was raised Monday at a meeting with the Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat as one of the suggestions for preserving Petra, and making it more suitable for tourists.

The meeting which took place at the Ministry of Tourism and which was arranged by the Department of Antiquities after the department received a positive response from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) aims to offer technical and financial aid to help preserve and develop Petra.

Five experts headed by Bary Lane of UNESCO have been sent to Jordan for a month long stay, mostly at Petra, in order to make a study of rock and sand erosion, flooding problems, the rebuilding of dams and preservation of gardens. They are also charged with finding alternative living areas for members of the Bedouin tribe who are presently occupying archaeological sites in Petra.

The area to be studied includes 364,000 dunams of Petra. According to Mr. Hikmat, Jordan is very anxious to develop and preserve Petra and would do all that is necessary to make tourist accommodation more available in Petra. "It is sometimes not unusual to see tourists wearing masks in the Siq because



of the dust. It is also possible to raise funds for the restoration of Petra by raising the entrance fees to the area to increase the JD 1.5 million Jordan already makes annually from the site," Mr. Hikmat said.

Also attending the meeting were local representatives from

the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Petra National Trust, and the French Archaeological Institute for the Near East (IFAPO).

The team will leave to Petra on Oct. 28 and will be working there until Nov. 20.

## Jerash festival under discussion

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of four government ministries and a host of various public and private institutions and cultural and artistic groups will meet in Amman Wednesday for a seminar to discuss the annual Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

The festival in which folkloric troupes from Jordan and many other countries take part is normally held in the summer, according to a statement by the festival director Akram Masarweh.

The discussion on Wednesday will, however, review past activities and means of improving the quality of the festival in the coming years.

The seminar aims at establishing a constructive dialogue between the festival management body on the one hand and the various institutions and folk troupes in Jordan, said Mr. Masarweh.

The festival, he said, was a

means of presenting creative works of art in all its forms to help promote the interaction between Jordan and other cultures of the world.

The idea of holding the Jerash Festival was put on by Her Majesty Queen Noor in 1981 with the aim of preserving and enhancing Jordanian culture.

The choice of Jerash as the forum for the annual event stemmed from its central location and accessibility. Furthermore, Jerash offers a superb archaeological setting for the event.

According to Mr. Masarweh, delegates to be represented at the coming meeting will come from the ministries of culture and tourism, education and youth, the Jordan Writers Federation, journalists from radio and television, the Jordan Library Association, associations of music and theatre, Yarmouk University, the University of Jordan, the Haya Arts Centre, local newspapers, and various local folk troupes.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khreis at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photography exhibition of Petra at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

## Paris talks to discuss loan for telecommunications corp.

By Laney Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and French officials open talks in Paris Tuesday on economic cooperation. A new 80 million French francs (JD 16 million) financial protocol to ease the stress on the Kingdom's overworked Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is one of the topics on the agenda.

Details of the discussions were not disclosed but the soft loan is most likely to be used to improve Jordan's telecommunication systems, such as buying switchboard equipment, Jordanian and French officials say.

Difficulties could occur, however, as to whether the protocol requires TCC to sign a contract with a French firm only.

Communications Minister Jamal Sarairoh said Jordan will use the loan only if "there are no conditions attached." He said a French firm will only be awarded a contract if it proves competitive on the international tender market.

Mr. Sarairoh is however not participating in the talks.

The delegation left earlier in the week, headed by Planning Ministry Secretary-General Safwan Toukan. He is joined by director of bilateral cooperation Mustafa Al Saleh and ministry official Iyad Al Qudha.

In general, European countries require receiving countries to forge contracts with the donor countries. French sources indicated that a common ground could be found.

The protocol is one of several France has signed with Jordan since the mid-eighties to improve the Kingdom's communication network.

TCC has said it plans to expand services to all regions of Jordan which requires installing of new telephone exchanges, new networks and more technical facilities.

The company has 280,000 subscribers and said its needs to increase the number of lines by 300,000 by 2010 to meet the projected demand.

Minister Sarairoh said that Jordan is also floating international tenders for upgrading its Mafraq telephone exchange, a project being funded by the Islamic Bank.

## An English telephone directory commission is awarded

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An updated version of the English-language telephone directory will be released in the fourth quarter of next year, according to an agreement signed between the Telephone Communications Corporation (TCC) and a private publishing house.

The release, the first in almost six years, will be updated with all new connections and subscribers since 1987 up to March 31, 1993, Minister of Telecommunications Jamal Sarairoh said.

The concession was awarded to the Amman-based Al Khair publishing house which provided the best offer from among four companies who had submitted bids. Al Khair prepared the previous 1983 and 1987 English-language directories under similar arrangements.

Under the new agreement, Al Khair will finance the project and undertake the entire task of preparing, publishing and marketing the directory. Advertising and sale proceeds will go to the company.

"We want to relieve ourselves of this job and hence the contract," Mr. Sarairoh told the Jordan Times, after the agreement was signed Saturday.

Neither the minister nor Hani



Jamal Al Sarairoh

Al Khair, director-general of the company, would reveal the amount that the ministry would receive for the concession.

Mr. Khair said he plans to publish between 5,000 and 10,000 copies of the directory, "depending on a market survey to determine the demand," and that the price of the publication had not yet been decided. The 1987 edition was sold for JD 4 per copy.

The publisher said that the English-language directory would have two separately priced volumes — one covering Amman governorate subscribers and the other covering the rest of the Kingdom.

"It is going to be huge," said Mr. Khair, noting that there was a 30 per cent increase in the number of subscribers since 1987. "We hope to do a decent job and release it by October 1993."

Mr. Sarairoh said Jordan had about 280,000 telephone lines and that almost all of the available lines had already been connected. Therefore, he noted, there would not be much updating to be done between now and March 31, 1993.

In the meantime, an updated Arabic-language directory printed under the direct supervision of the TCC has been completed. This is expected to be released soon pending an approval by a special committee of the corporation.

Mr. Sarairoh indicated however, that the committee was not fully satisfied with the job. "It seems that they (the printers) did not fully abide by some terms of the contract," he said.

Mr. Sarairoh added that the ministry might grant a concession for the next edition of the Arabic-language directory. "We hope we can find a good, efficient and reliable company to do the job to our satisfaction," he said.

Arabic-language directories have so far been distributed free of cost to the subscribers.

## Sudan minister to meet Ensour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sudanese Minister of State Othman Mahjoub will Tuesday open talks with Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and other government officials and private sector businessmen on promoting Jordanian Sudanese economic and trade cooperation, according to the Sudanese Embassy in Amman Monday.

An embassy official said that during the visit Mr. Mahjoub will also be Director General of the Sudanese Bank for Industrial De-

velopment, was expected to discuss increasing the volume of exchanged goods and industrial expertise between Amman and Khartoum.

The minister who arrived in Amman Monday morning said that he will attend the opening of Sudan's second trade fair due in Amman along with general issues concerning trade with Jordan.

The trade fair, he said, will offer a good chance for merchants in both countries to open new avenues of commercial deals particularly in agricultural and industrial products. He said that the 14-day will display on assortment of Sudanese national goods that could be sold directly to the public.

## ADC press conference

AMMAN — There will be a press conference at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27 at the ADC Regional Office held by Basheer Lubin a member of ADC Berkeley California, who just arrived in Amman to mount a campaign to raise funds in the defence of Palestinians and women from Kenya all of whom live in Los Angeles. They are known as the L.A. 8. They were arrested for supporting the Palestinian cause in January 1987. If financial support is not forthcoming for their legal defence, they risk deportation. For further details call ADC Regional Office in Amman, tel. 693263



## Austrian Airlines announces Amman-Vienna route

AMMAN — Austrian Airlines representatives held a press conference at the Amman Plaza Hotel Monday during which they announced the inauguration of the airlines Amman-Vienna which will fly twice weekly. The first landing they said took place Monday Oct. 26, marking Austria's national day.

Franz Zohbauer, vice president of marketing overseas for Austrian Airlines, spoke at the outset of the press gathering paying tribute to Jordanian-Austrian relations and voicing hope that the new route would further bolster bilateral relations.

Mr. Kurt Reimann the airline's regional manager who is responsible for operations covering Jordan, Syria and Lebanon said that the Amman-Vienna route was decided on following studies by the airline showing that Middle East passengers flying Austrian airlines constituted 10 per cent of the total volume of pas-

sengers carried by the airline around the world.

Nasser Kassar Director general of Petra Tours and Austrian Airlines agent in Jordan said that the new route was bound to provide valuable services to the tourism sector in Jordan. The Vienna based Austrian Airlines covers a network that includes Asia, America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Scheduled services are operated to 67 cities in 42 countries.

In accordance with the economic and trade relations between the Arab World and Europe, Austrian Airlines developed its scheduled services, both business and leisure traffic have expanded over the past years.

Austrian Airlines officials say the Gulf Crisis caused a setback, but already as of March 1991 Austrian Airlines resumed all services to the Middle East with the exception of Baghdad and Kuwait.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King sends cable to Turkmenistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Monday a cable to the President of Turkmenistan to congratulate him on his country's national day. King Hussein wished the president good health and happiness and the people of Turkmenistan further progress and prosperity.

#### Prince Faisal and Princess Alia open Finnish week

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal, who is Chairperson of the Jordanian Promising Hands Society, attended Monday a reception hosted by Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental on the occasion of the Finnish Week in Jordan. The week of which proceeds will benefit the Promising Hands Society will include fashion shows, Finnish cuisine and polo matches.

#### New health clinics to be opened by mechanics union

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Workers in Land Transport and Mechanics has decided to open 10 new health clinics in various parts of Jordan to offer medical services to the association members and their families. The clinics will start receiving patients by the beginning of next month, union president Ibrahim Al Ajameh said Monday. He said the union has also decided to re-open Al Hussein Labourers' clinics in Aqaba city.

#### Vatican apostolic delegate arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vatican's Apostolic delegate in Jerusalem Monsignor Andrea Di Montezemolo arrived in Amman Monday on a four-day visit. Monsignor Di Montezemolo will meet with senior Jordanian officials for talks on the Middle East peace process and the outcome of a recent visit by Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres to the Vatican.

#### Arab Civil Aviation Cooperation to be formed

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and five other Arab countries have agreed to establish an Arab Civil Aviation Corporation which will include in its membership all Arab countries. The decision to establish the corporation was taken at a meeting of the directors of the civil aviation authorities in Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Bahrain and Libya, held in Cairo Sunday. The corporation aims to prepare a unified Arab policy to face challenges facing Arab airlines as a result of regional and international alliances, particularly following the 1993 unification of Europe. The corporation also aims to promote cooperation and coordination among member states.

#### ISESCO executive board to meet in Rabat

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive board of the Amman-based Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) will hold its third session in Rabat Nov. 23, according to announcement made here Monday. The announcement said the session will discuss several reports on the achievements of the organisation in 1991, amendments to ISESCO's bylaws and enhancing cooperation between ISESCO's member states. Azerbaijan and Iran have joined the organisation only recently, thus raising ISESCO's membership to 39 states.

#### Kabariti meets ALO delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti received at the ministry Monday a delegation representing the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) currently on a visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials and to prepare for the 20th session of the Arab labour ministers conference which will open in Amman April 5, 1993.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة التي تصدر بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Editorial and advertising offices:  
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Jordan Times advertising department.

## Taste of own pill

WHEN MIDDLE East peace talks were launched a year ago Palestinians in the occupied territories were so hopeful that instead of throwing stones at Israeli soldiers on Oct. 30 as they had been doing for four years they showered occupation troops with olive branches.

Now, a year on, the Palestinians and their Arab brothers are so frustrated by the lack of any sign of progress towards peace that on Sunday six Israeli soldiers were killed in clashes in South Lebanon and the West Bank.

Likewise when the peace process started one could hardly hear any solid opposition to the peace negotiations. Nowadays more Palestinian factions are joining the nay-sayers as more Arabs are growing more disillusioned with the prospects of reaching a peace settlement. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who in the summer used Israelis' frustration with the status quo and their growing concern about lack of progress on the peace front staged a Labour comeback to power. His election rekindled hope for the vast majority of Arabs, especially the Palestinians, that an end to the occupation was finally in sight. Unfortunately, however, the euphoria was short-lived. The only thing Rabin seems to have achieved so far has been to sow discord among the Arabs themselves, notably between the Palestinians and Syrians.

While that discord may prove useful for Israel, particularly for myopic Israeli politicians, in the immediate future, it will not serve the cause of peace as viewed from either Israeli or Arab peoples' perspective. Judging from Sunday's killings of Israeli soldiers it is doubtful that Rabin's policies and tactics would in anyway serve Israel's strategic interests. The Labour-led government in Israel is of course expected to blame what it might want to term as Islamic fundamentalists for both attacks. But mainstream Palestinians and Arabs would blame Israeli tactics, stalling at the Washington negotiations and Rabin's attempts to divide the Arabs for the growing opposition to the peace process.

Furthermore, the Israeli plan to reach an accord with Syria while the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and South Lebanon continues for another five years without any guarantees that Palestinians will get their full national rights at the end of the day is bound to push many of them to despair and thus threaten to torpedo the whole process.

Israel cannot use the peace talks as an alibi. Occupation itself is a reality — a bitter reality. Israel is occupying Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese lands. It is terrorising both the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and the Lebanese in the south. It cannot and must not expect an easy ride on its trip of occupation and fantasy. It cannot also continue to attack South Lebanon and to use its iron-fist policy in the West Bank and Gaza and expect no retaliation. Only under one condition can Israel expect to end Palestinian and Lebanese attacks on its people and army. That condition is a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict that will address all the concerns of all the parties, not least amongst whom are the Palestinians and Lebanese.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily said Monday that the current round of talks between Arab and Israeli negotiators in Washington is not bound to yield any fruitful results since it is clear that the Israelis are awaiting the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections early next month. The paper said that the Israeli document on the Golan Heights, as presented to the Syrian side, contained no definite pledge on the part of Israel to withdraw from the occupied lands nor did it provide any firm pledge on the part of the Rabin government over a phased withdrawal. The paper said that the Israeli settlers are exerting their own pressure on the Israeli government not to withdraw one inch from the occupied Arab lands, something which makes it more difficult for the Rabin government to show any flexibility at the peace negotiations. For this reason, the Israeli government has just announced that it intends only to carry out slight changes along its confrontation lines with the Arabs but has not desire to withdraw its troops, said the daily. The paper said that the Israeli government is nowadays stressing the fact that the U.N. resolutions do not provide for the dismantling of settlement; for this reason the Israeli government is holding on to them. At the same time, said the daily, the Israelis are playing for time and waiting the outcome of the Nov. 3 elections in the United States, giving the world sedative statements which can by no means help the peace negotiations to achieve any progress.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily described as a good choice Lebanon's designation to Rafik Hariri to form a new government in the country. Tariq Masarweh said the man is wise, rich and has vast experience in dealing with crises of all kinds, unlike many of those who preceded him to the post and failed to bring about peace to the country. The writer said that Lebanon is in bad need of such man and such experience in order to reconstruct the country, devastated by the prolonged civil strife and to rebuild the devastated institutions. He said that those close associates of Rafik Hariri know well that the man can handle the job and that Lebanon can gain a great deal at his hands, but they also realise that Lebanon can not be reconstructed upon the shoulders of one man. He said that wealthy Lebanese should return to the country with their money and their skill and help the man do the job. The writer also said that such a reconstruction process can only be carried out in an atmosphere of security and stability, which the Syrian forces can provide. He said the Jordanian people who harbour affection towards the Lebanese can only wish the new premier designate success in his mission.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Democracy, badges of honour, and the courts

By Rami G. Khouri

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the State Security Court's trial of individuals accused of belonging to a group called Al Nafar Al Islami has taken on a political dynamic of its own, and this, I believe, may prove to be far more important in the long run than the specific facts of the trial itself. I refer to two incidents: the statement Saturday by many prominent Jordanian parliamentarians and political activists critical of the trial and requesting His Majesty the King to terminate the case; and the statement Sunday by Justice Minister Yousef Mbaideen rejecting the criticism of the court and its handling of the case and hinting that the Saturday statement was somehow inimical to safeguarding democratic processes.

The issues raised by both parties are important, exciting, valid and supercharged with political and historical energy. Forget, for the moment, your specific inner feelings — if you believe that the accused are innocent or guilty, if you accept the state's evidence as solid or weak, if you feel the defendants' legal posture is appropriate or not, if you believe the accused's alleged actions were dangerous or idealistic, or if you feel that this is a judicial proceeding that may also contain political elements. These are all important issues that everybody talks about in their homes and workplaces every day, as should happen in a nascent democracy. Legal constraints make it more difficult to discuss the particulars of the case in the press, so we leave that issue for the lawyers to deal with in court and for the people to deal with in the privacy of their homes. Nevertheless, one should appreciate the exciting historical, cultural and political process at hand.

It is rather extraordinary that on a subject as sensitive and important as the proceedings of a State Security Court, leading political personalities and the minister of justice should be exchanging exhortations and accusations in the form of press conferences and public statements that are (usually) routinely reported in (most) newspapers. How far have we travelled in just a few years, and how pleasant a journey this is!

It is the height of social responsibility, communal composure, national self-confidence and political maturity to discuss such serious issues in public, without people resorting (as they often tend to do in this region) to vicious any hysterical personal accusations. The terms of reference of the current public debate are not really about personalities or personal motives but rather about judicial punctilio and the role of the judicial system within a

young but frisky democracy. This should be a badge of honour to Jordanians and other Arabs who can appreciate the historical nature of what is happening these days.

In this respect, Jordan represents an impressive model for others in the Arab and Third Worlds seeking to make the transition from traditionalism to modernism and from tribal to civil societies.

The fundamental struggle today throughout the entire Middle East is for new forms of government, national packaging and political systems that respond and make sense to their own people. We have seen many interesting models in recent years, the most intriguing ones, in my view, being Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Oman and Jordan. The Jordanian model is still taking shape, through a process that remains both sound and comforting.

The current judicial controversy is central to that process of transformation, composure and maturity. The parliamentary controversy over alleged slander and defamation of Parliament is similar, as were the cases two years ago of the agriculture and education ministers who made executive changes that triggered strong counter-reactions. These are not coincidences. The fact that all three branches of government have been subjected to the rigorous test of public debate should help clarify the historic and comprehensive nature of the political process we are passing through: the quest for an Arab-Islamic brand of democratic pluralism. It does not exist anywhere — yet — but it is being forged every day, by people like us, in countries like this, with feelings such as those in the hearts of every person who bothers to have an opinion on this court case or any other public issue.

Those critical of the trial claim in public that it runs against the grain of our continued shifting into an increasingly democratic mode, while the justice minister responds that such statements do not reflect keenness to safeguard a democracy based on separation of powers among the three branches of government. This is very impressive stuff — a bit heavy to fit in between the morning newspaper's sports news and the stock market quotations, but nevertheless very sober, mature, rational, and meaningful.

The issues that are raised must be addressed emphatically and seriously, but not in haste. Forget, again for the moment, the particularities, personalities and political context of this case.

The question is one of jurisdiction, appropriateness and the

relationship among the three branches of government, the press and the many other political forces and institutions in the realm. The separation of powers between the three branches of government and the press is the key issue, and the justice minister did well to address it and to raise it for public discussion. It has many aspects.

Is it helpful or harmful for Jordanian democratisation for members of the political establishment to question the validity of a case before the State Security Court, as they are doing every day these days? Is separation of powers absolute? Or, was it designed in France and the United States in the late 18th century as a means of instituting a form of government that was based almost exclusively on individual rights and separation of church and state? Do some of these same principles apply to us today? Is separation of powers in late 20th century Jordan identical in its intent and implementation to the Atlantic rim in the late 18th century? Do we have the flip side of the principle of separation of powers, which is an institutionalised form of checks-and-balances among the three branches? What about the role of the press as the essential purveyor of information by which the people can decide who should represent them in their democratic institutions? If powers are separated, and power is wielded by officials chosen by the people, how do the people know how to choose their representatives and public officials?

These are some of real issues before us today. Our strength as a community is that most of us can discuss these issues in public in a sensible, rational and constructive manner, aware of their implication for the quality of life of future generations. This kind of debate is far more important, in the long run, than issues such as Israel or foreign imperialism, for it will define the quality of our political culture, which in turn will determine our capacity to deal with threats from abroad.

The specifics of the case before the State Security Court today are interesting and important in their own right. Controversial, frightening or difficult as they may be, they should not let us miss the more transcendent political process at work here: the making of modern Arab political culture. Keep reading the news, and watch history in the making.

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## British pit closures contrast with caring Dutch approach

By Sara Henley  
Reuters

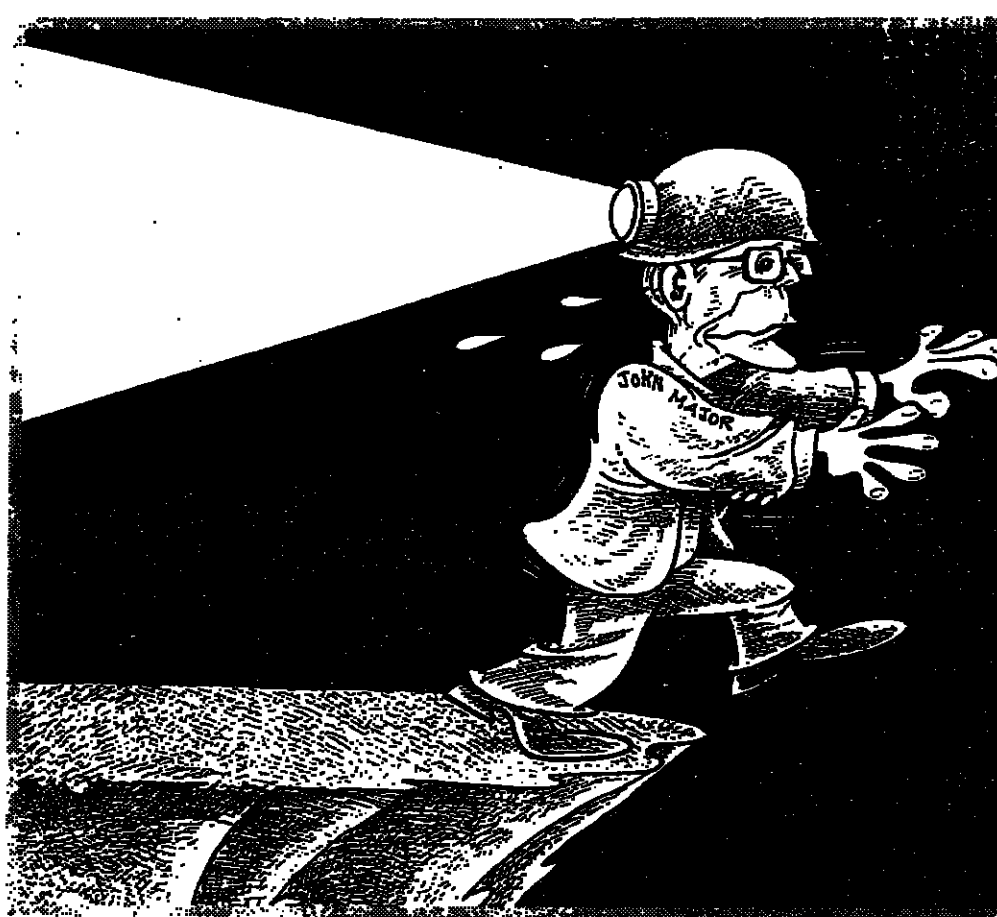
AMSTERDAM — The threat of massive pit closures in Britain has revived painful memories for some 55,000 Dutch miners who were laid off a quarter of a century ago when the Netherlands coal industry was shut down.

But it seems unemployment has a harsher face in Britain in the 1990s than in the welfare-minded Netherlands of the 1960s. Miner Theo Klomp was 43 when he was forced to leave the coalface where he had worked for 28 years with his father and six brothers. He was retrained for factory work, and found new jobs until ill health hastened his retirement at 52.

"I'm satisfied with my life, but I worry about the older ones in England," said Mr. Klomp, now 65. "They'll have a hard time walking around with their hands in their pockets. I was in pain in my whole body when I started sitting down all day."

The same market forces that threaten British coal with oblivion buried the Dutch coal industry. Cheap gas discovered on Dutch territory, combined with falling prices of imported coal, made the Dutch product uneconomical.

The Dutch mines, four of which were state-owned, were all in the southern province of Limburg. In the 1960s the region's economy depended on the pits. "It was a massive shock when they said they were going," said Arthur Spierts, a spokesman for



the former state-owned mining company DSM NV. "The mines looked after you from the cradle to the grave."

Entire communities depended on the pits that produced the "black gold" after thousands had

frozen to death in the harsh winters of World War II.

The closures put an end to four semi-professional choirs, a casino and other social facilities and threw countless people in related industries out of work.

The government of the day was determined to offset the agony of unemployment with new job opportunities and welfare. It phased in the pit closures over eight years.

Announcing the beginning of

the end in 1965, the then Minister for Economic Affairs Joop Den Uyl vowed that the ground would be laid for "a new generation in Limburg to start a new life, in a new industrial centre, with great growth opportunities and great welfare."

The government spent 10 billion guilders (\$6 billion) to stimulate new industry.

"The Dutch government at the time said the closure had to be combined with stimulating other jobs," Mr. Spierts said.

DSM, which closed its last

mine in November 1973, is now a global chemicals company. The Dutch state privatised it in 1989, floating a majority of shares on the stock market.

The Civil Service Pension Fund ABP — now one of the world's richest — was moved to Limburg. The Central Bureau of Statistics, tax offices and other civil service institutions were also relocated there.

DSM bought shares in a DAFcar factory enabling it to redeploy staff there. It is now owned by Sweden's Volvo and Japan's Mitsubishi and the state retains a third of the shares.

The provincial capital, Maastricht, is now a prosperous university town.

Jos Dols, head of human resources at DSM, supervised the retraining and redeployment of thousands in the eight years it took to close down the mines.

"We trained people to quite technical levels," he said. "I know a mine supervisor who was 38 with three children. He took five years out to study and now he's an art historian. 'What surprises me about the British is not the motives. The motives are the same,'" he said. "But in my opinion our experience shows the closure procedure must be decent, you have to do it over time."

Even with government help, ex-miner Klomp, who works as a charity volunteer when his health permits, says he found it difficult to adjust to life outside the pit.

He tried three different sorts of work before finding a job that was physically demanding enough for him. He still dreams of working at the coal face.

"I was there with three of my brothers in the same section," he recalled. "We had to climb on each other's backs sometimes. You couldn't see your hands for dust. We shared some good jokes."

## GOP big donors begin October defection to Democrats

By John Solomon  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some of the Republican Party's biggest and most faithful corporate donors did something different earlier this month: they forked over large sums — some more than \$100,000 — to the Democrats.

Liquor industry giant Edgar M. Bronfman, a former half-million dollar supporter of the Republican Party, did it. So did beer maker Anheuser-Busch, cosmetics giant Revlon and Wall Street's Merrill Lynch and Co.

In all, nine usually hefty Republican donors of soft money — donations exempt from the post-Watergate limits — crossed over to Democrats with large sums in the first 14 days of October, an Associated Press review of Federal Election Commission reports found.

Is it a last-ditch attempt by the donors to switch to a better bet, after months — and in some cases years — of backing President Bush? Or was it simply a gesture of good will toward Bill Clinton and his Democratic allies?

The donors insisted it was the latter. But at the least, it was a sharp reminder to the Republicans of Mr. Bush's declining political fortunes.

"These big donors watch the polls just like we do," said Joshua Goldstein, an analyst with the campaign watchdog Centre for Responsive Politics. "When your investment looks like it isn't

going to come off you go and try somewhere else."

Most of the cross-over companies were already double-givers, donating heavily to Republicans throughout the 1992 election but before this month giving only nominally to the Democrats.

For example, Revlon had donated \$140,000 to Republicans before October and just \$21,700 to Democrats. But by giving an additional \$120,000 in October to the Democrats, Revlon essentially "evened the score," Mr. Goldstein said.

Donors, however, denied their late contributions to the Democrats were based on public opinion polls showing Bill Clinton maintaining a double-digit lead over Mr. Bush.

"I think it is an absolutely inaccurate conclusion to draw that we're making these contributions looking at the opinion polls," said James Wiggins, a vice president at Merrill Lynch. "We have traditionally supported both political parties."

Indeed, Mr. Wiggins' firm had supported both parties with soft money even before it gave \$50,000 to the Democrats in October.

But that support lopsidedly benefited Republicans. Mr. Bush's party had received \$477,100 in soft money from Merrill Lynch through September compared to \$47,300 for Democrats.

Perhaps more telling though is that during the spring, when Mr. Bush's popularity was still strong, Merrill Lynch and Co. Chairman William Schroeder helped organise a huge Republican fund-raising event.

But with Mr. Clinton now leading, Merrill Lynch donated \$50,000 to the Democrats on Oct. 14 and is hosting several fund-raisers across the nation that will further benefit Democrats, Mr. Wiggins said.

Corporations like Merrill Lynch are forbidden from donating directly to federal elections but through soft money — a legal loophole — they can give unlimited amounts to the political parties to use on activities like generic ads and get-out-the-vote drives that help candidates up and down the ticket.

Critics argue the loophole has given corporate fat cats an avenue for winning favour inside the parties with big donations, especially in a presidential election year.

Defections of Republican soft money donors started as a trickle. Former IBM Chairman Thomas Watson was among the first, giving \$100,000 to the Democrats late this summer after last year forking over \$84,000 to the Grand Old Party (GOP) — the Republicans.

Mr. Watson, a Bush family friend, said he had a "change of

heart" after hearing statistics indicating the lower class was financially worse off today than it was 12 years ago while the rich had fared better.

But the most surprising cross-over was Mr. Dronfman, chairman of liquor industry giant Joseph E. Seagram and Sons and one of the original members of the Republican's \$100,000-plus donor club started in 1987.

Through September, he and his company had given \$507,227 in soft money donations to Mr. Bush's party. But on Oct. 8 both he and his son gave \$100,000 each to the Democratic National Committee.

Christopher Tofalli, a spokesman for Seagrams, declined to discuss the situation except to say it was not any part of a strategy by the liquor magnate to "save face" with Democrats.

"I don't know of any strategy like that. But he has never said anything about giving before and probably won't state anything now. We'll let the public record speak for itself," he said.

B.J. Cooper, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee tried to downplay any talk of Republican donor defections. "Some folks do go both ways in every election," he said.

"...But if people based their decision on that (the current polls) they have bet on the wrong team."

## LETTERS

### Censor the censors!

To the Editor:

Like some other Jordanians, I enjoy the pleasure of buying and reading weekly German magazines. My pleasure is often shattered by our censors, however. I have no choice but to say that a magazine that is regarded as a comprehensive family magazine in Germany is being treated as a pornographic magazine in Jordan.

Any picture showing any part of the human anatomy is either crossed out by black lines or, even worse, complete pages are torn out.

Medical articles on topics such as breast cancer, new types of surgery for lung cancer or breast feeding techniques usually are accompanied by pertinent pictures. But these pictures are always either mutilated by black ink or torn out. How can one follow such an article?

Same applies for articles on art and drawings of famous painters.

I am a grandmother and would definitely not read a pornographic magazine. Please, if censoring has to be done, let it be done by people who know what they are doing. I have the feeling that all what the current censors know is that any picture of the human anatomy must be crossed out.

S. Dajani,  
P.O. Box 501,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Jordan calls for world support

(Continued from page 1)

clear non-proliferation treaty, which provides for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Jordan is involved in the Middle East peace process with the aim of averting further tragedies and suffering in the region and ensuring permanent and justice to its peoples," he said. The Kingdom is totally committed towards the objectives of peace, he added. "I do hereby stress Jordan's determination to work with all forces towards achieving peace, but it is the duty of the world community to help this goal attain this aspired goal," said.

## King dismisses claims of politics

(Continued from page 1)

Gen. Mango, who said he had "law officers to (Saturday's) conference and recorded anything," also criticized "professionals in law" who had endorsed the statement, which said the State Security Court was abolished when martial law was lifted in the Kingdom.

Reading from a prepared text, a lawyer general said that the State Security Law was enacted in 1959 in a constitutional manner and not in a martial law, which was passed in 1957, and Dec. 1, 1958, and again on June 5, 1967 until it was repealed in 1973.

"Unfortunately, the statement is not accurate although most of the signatories are lawyers, judges and intellectuals," Gen. Mango said. "They should have referred to these texts before they signed that the court was established under martial law."

The general also rejected questions over the credibility of prosecution witnesses who were detained or sentenced. He said that no law prevents the testimony of a detained or sentenced witness involved in another case. Most of the prosecution witnesses in the Al Nafeer case said they were being held at the General Intelligence Department for involvement in another illegal act called "the Committee for Martyr Ramadan Al Banna."

One was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for spying for Israel. The prosecution on Sunday asked the court to sentence the two hunger-striking deputies in detention to make any statement in their own defence. Prosecutor for Mohammad Hijazi is expected to present his summation Saturday, followed by the examination of the lawyer representing two shopkeepers involved in the case, and then the verdict will be announced.

In response to the defence prosecution over not being able to see the identity of the "secret witness," identified later by court as "Yassin Ramadan Al Nafeer," Gen. Mango insisted that the law did not give the defence the right to see any identification of the witnesses, and his identity and passport registered in the court and in by Presiding Judge Lieutenant-Colonel Yousef Al Nafeer.

Gen. Mango added that the "secret witness" was a Syrian who volunteered to come to Jordan to testify in the case, and had requested a secret session because he was afraid for his life. Mr. Shbeilat denied he had seen the man.

The attorney general, who read to a legal text regarding holding of a secret court, revealed that the Syrian had testified that he had taken a large amount of money from a Jordanian man working at the prime ministry to deliver Mr. Shbeilat after saying a code phrase: "My birthday is Friday."

Gen. Mango rejected a request for Shbeilat for bringing back witness to be cross-examined as a defence team, which was headed by Ibrahim Bakr, in a public hearing, saying that the witness outside the country and that defence lawyers had "lost chance to cross-examine when the judge gave them opportunity to do so ... and defence has to accept the consequences."

Gen. Mango also accused the "defence team of trying to influence public opinion by turning this into a trial."

Amman Plaza Hotel.

He said apart from the Arab countries, the meeting was attended by the World Peace Council and a European centre for coordinating the work of peace movements from Arab, European and North American states.

In his address to the meeting, Mr. Mdanant spoke of the inhuman treatment accorded by the Israeli authorities to the Palestinian people in the occupied lands, the settlement of Jews on confiscated Arab territory, and other practices in violation of international principles and U.N. resolutions.

Khaled Mubaidin, who represented Egypt, called for solidarity among the peace groups of the Arab World to attain common goals. He said these groups should shoulder a serious responsibility towards the Palestinian people and their rights.

There is no relation between the issues debated in Parliament and this case. This is a case of violations of the law — the establishment of an armed organisation in this country," he stressed.

Mr. Shbeilat had headed a Lower House committee which investigated and publicly debated a "corruption" case of the Jafar Azraq highway involving former senior government officials. Mr. Shbeilat last week accused the prosecution of "fabricating charges" against him and that political motives were behind his arrest and trial.

Deputies Shbeilat and Qarash — whom Gen. Mango described as the "leaders of the Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami" — face charges that range from establishing and belonging to an illegal armed organisation plotting to overthrow the regime and set up a caliphate-style Islamic state and rewrite the Constitution, and possession of explosives and weapons. Mr. Shbeilat is also accused of slandering His Majesty the King and fellow members of Parliament.

Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash began a hunger strike early last week to protest against the proceedings of their trial. On Sunday, a team from the Jordan Medical Association, headed by its president, Dr. Ishaq Maraka, visited Mr. Shbeilat — who has been living only on water and salt — at the Swaga prison and carried out a full check-up.

Dr. Maraka was quoted as describing Mr. Shbeilat's condition as "medium" but "signs of exhaustion are beginning to appear as a result of his hunger-strike." He added that the JMA should continue to examine the deputy on regular basis and would inform him of his medical condition.

The medical team was yesterday expected to pay a similar visit to Sheikh Qarash, who said that he is refraining from both food and water.

Although he declined to comment on their hunger strike, Gen. Mango (who indicated that the authorities may perhaps permit journalists to visit the detained deputies) said that the authorities were prepared to provide Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash with whatever is necessary to help them in their detention.

Gen. Mango also refuted a statement by Deputy Salim Zoubi, "who is a former judge and now a lawyer," that the executive branch could interfere with the court trial, saying that the State Security Court was a "special court and therefore part of the judicial branch."

Deputies Zoubi and Daghini had said that the State Security Court was under the jurisdiction of the prime minister, and consequently the executive branch because its judges are appointed by the prime minister and the court's verdicts must be endorsed by him before they become effective.

Gen. Mango did not deny that the prime minister had this authority over this court — although the judges are appointed in consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces — and said that the prime minister could either endorse the court's final verdict as it is or cut down or increase the sentence, provided the sentence is greater than a prison term of one year.

## Iran denies links

Iran denied Monday it had any links with the two members of parliament on trial.

Iran's state-run news agency IRNA, monitored by Reuters in Nicosia, quoted a Foreign Ministry source as saying reports implicating Tehran in the case were "baseless and unfounded."

## Israel unleashes fury on Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

two-week upsurge in violence that took the lives of three Israelis and eight Palestinians.

The opposition Likud Party, in a statement, blamed the violence on "the government's policy of capitulation and appeasement" — a reference to Mr. Rabin's "concessions" to the Arabs in the peace talks.

Likud lawmaker Yehoshua Matza demanded that the government immediately recall the Israeli delegation from the peace talks.

Mr. Matza argued that the attack in South Lebanon had the blessing of Syria, the main military power in Lebanon, and that the Hebron shooting was an act of "Palestinian terrorism."

Labour lawmaker Ephraim Sneh, a former commander of the "security zone," supported Mr. Matza's contention that Syria gave its approval for the Lebanon attack.

But he said withdrawing from talks would play into the hands of "opponents of peace on the Arab side (who) are now waging a

battle to block the peace process."

On Monday, another roadside bomb was detonated in Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon at 10:30 a.m. (0830 GMT). There was no immediate responsibility claim.

Security sources in the zone said three patrolmen of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia were wounded in the blast between the villages of Suja and Reiban.

Other security sources outside the zone said Israel moved in a battalion of 16 Howitzers complete with a 500-strong crew who rolled in 21 armoured personnel carriers, 15 trucks and 12 jeeps.

The reinforcements deployed in forward positions along the length of the "security zone" and joined local batteries in pounding dozens of villages, the sources said.

An officer of the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon said the intensity of Monday's bombardment suggested Israel was either setting the stage for a ground thrust or escalating shelling to break the worst possible defence.

The officer and the sources spoke on condition of anonymity. The sources said dozens of villages along the length of the "security zone" were targeted. Guerrillas fired back intermittent mortar barrages.

## Israel says violence could mar talks

(Continued from page 1)

In Madrid, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday the peace talks were becoming daily more interesting and he hoped for a positive outcome.

He told reporters his talks in Spain would cover Israel's relations with the European Community and Spain and the Middle East peace talks, "which are developing in a more interesting way every day and which I hope will have a positive outcome."

Asked about the attack in which five Israeli soldiers died, Mr. Peres said: "This incident has affected Israeli public opinion deeply and we will have to take firm steps to ensure things like this do not recur so we can continue with the peace process."

Mr. Peres stressed the importance of multilateral discussions between Israel and Arab states, which were dealing with economic and ecological subjects such as water.

"We are trying to construct a new Middle East and without the economic base in place you cannot build peace," he said.

particular in promoting the cause of peace in the region.

The minister said the peace process was aimed at settling issues pertaining to occupied lands and holy places as well as Arab rights.

But he noted, unlike the first five rounds — when the Likud bloc was in power in Israel — the new rounds are going on as scheduled and "things are in their right perspective."

Referring to a planned meeting here Tuesday with the apostolic delegate to Jerusalem, Dr. Abu Jaber said he hoped to hear the Vatican's views regarding the ongoing contacts between the Vatican and Israel.

## Israel proposes

(Continued from page 1)

common Arab stance that progress must be made in the bilateral peace talks in Washington before regional cooperation can begin.

"We will look at it ... but first we have to be on an equal footing," Mr. Bakr said.

The other delegations were not available for comment.

Nearly 40 delegations are attending the two-day private session at the Dutch foreign ministry.

They include the United States, Japan, the European Community (EC) and the United Nations as well as the other parties in the Mideast peace talks in Washington, except for Syria and Lebanon, who are boycotting.

The environmental dialogue is designed to complement the Washington talks.

Mr. Peleg said there were no political recriminations except for Palestinian remarks about Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel ignored the comments, he said without elaborating, and Japanese moderator Yoshiji Nogami dismissed them as inappropriate to the discussion.

Mr. Bakr confirmed that the Palestinians' intention at the outset was to criticise the Israeli occupation, but he offered no details about the meeting.

The delegations split up into four topical discussion groups after a morning plenary session.

The groups are to discuss environmental and waste management, public outreach programmes, water pollution and ecologically-sustainable development.

Mr. Peleg said his proposed "Middle East centre for reclamation of the desert" would be based at universities and research institutes throughout the region.

"Such a centre would provide fertile ground for the growth of environmental studies particular to the Middle East and a forum for contact between the excellent centres which our region has produced," he said.

It could also produce irrigation technology that would benefit other parts of the world threatened by desertification, he said.

The environment talks are one of five multilateral dialogues taking place within the framework of the Mideast peace process launched nearly a year ago in Madrid.

The other deals with arms control, refugee problems, water-sharing, and economic cooperation.

But participants believe that the environmental talks present the best opportunity for agreement, since world opinion would come down harshly on any party resisting environmental protection.

"We are hoping something will come out of this meeting, even if ... we may not call it an agreement," said Mr. Nogami, who is Japan's deputy assistant foreign secretary.

## Syria, Israel's most implacable foe, holds key to Mideast peace

DAMASCUS (AP) — The Arabs have a saying: "There can be no Middle East war without Egypt and no peace without Syria."

That was never so apt as it is now, with the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process approaching its second year.

Increasingly, the negotiations between Israel and Syria, its most implacable foe for 44 years, are progressing in a way that no one would have thought possible a year ago.

This has raised hopes that maybe, just maybe, an end to one of the world's most intractable conflicts could be within reach, possibly less than what all the parties want but workable and binding.

Privately, Syrian officials say President Hafez Al Assad, whose Baath Party regime has been built around the struggle against Israel and recovering the Golan Heights captured in 1967, understands that he must adapt to the new world order.

But not at any price and not by breaking Arab ranks as Egypt did when it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

"Syria wants a just, honourable and durable settlement — but the Golan is as Syrian as New Jersey is American and there can be no equivocation on that," said Mohammad Aziz Shukri, dean of Damascus University's law school and a respected expert in international law.

The Israelis can't have their cake and eat it too. They can't have peace and land. Conquest is an international crime and Israel cannot be rewarded for conquest.

"If they say they're willing to withdraw 10 kilometres on the Golan for a peace treaty, they're dreaming. They can go to hell," Mr. Shukri said.

London's International Institute for Strategic Studies has characterised the talks as "the most complex peace effort since Versailles" after World War I.

To be sure, the peace process could take years.

But the fact that the Syrians, as well as the Palestinians, Jordanians and Lebanese, have been sitting down face-to-face with long-reviled — and still hated — foes for a year has irrevocably altered the fundamentals of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

When the talks began in Madrid Oct. 30, 1991, the Syrians and Israelis hurled insults at each other.

Now, with hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir out of office and succeeded by the pragmatic Yitzhak Rabin, both sides appear to be preparing for some hard-nosed horse-trading.

The seventh round of talks began in Washington last Wednesday.

The Syrians have dropped their

insistence that nothing of substance can be discussed until Israel withdraws from the territories captured in 1967.

For their part, the Israelis now acknowledge Syria's security needs and say that compromise is possible for relinquishing the Golan, the strategic 980-metre high volcanic plateau Israel "annexed" in 1981.

Up front, the Syrians demand the complete return of the Golan. But they know the Israelis are unlikely to do that easily and realise they are going to have to make concessions and may have to regain their lost land piecemeal over the next 10 or 20 years.

Privately, some officials and diplomats in Damascus say the Syrian position is more flexible — if Israel recognises Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, a phased Israeli pullback might be acceptable.

But, noted a senior Syrian official with inside knowledge of the talks: "There's a big difference between what the Israelis say in public and what's discussed behind closed doors in Washington."

"For instance, withdrawal is a word they only use in public, not around the conference table," he said on condition of anonymity.

Still, both sides say that the process is inching forward. So much that the Palestinians, their talks with the Israelis dogged down, fear Damascus might be tempted to make a separate peace if the Israelis are prepared to cut a deal on the Golan.

"Up front, the Syrians demand the complete return of the Golan. But they know the Israelis are unlikely to do that easily and realise they are going to have to make concessions and may have to regain their lost land piecemeal over the next 10 or 20 years."

The Syrians insist they will only accept a comprehensive settlement. But what that means is open to interpretation.

It could mean that if the Palestinians agree to the five-year interim period of limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which the Israelis are talking about (while refusing to discuss an independent Palestinian state), the Syrians will go along with that if they secure an Israeli pullback from the Golan.

"If the Palestinians agree on autonomy, to coexist with the Israelis, then they should get on with it if it pleases them. Why should Syria say no?" said Mr. Shukri.

He believes that by agreeing to Israeli conditions for the talks, the Palestinians "have fallen into a trap. But it's a very dirty game."



Hafez Al Assad

I don't believe the Israelis will ever withdraw from the West Bank or Gaza."

Syrians have been conditioned for decades into believing that the Jewish state is the embodiment of all evil. That will not be wiped out overnight.

But, like many other Arabs, they have grudgingly come to acknowledge Israel's existence, that it is not going to go away and that they no longer have the means to eliminate it.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Syrians lost their international leverage. Mr. Assad, after years of rejecting peace

talks, had little choice but to cozy up to the United States and go along with the peace initiative launched after the U.S.-led coalition's victory in last year's Gulf war.

In the bustling, noisy bazaars of this ancient city and the comfortable salons where intellectuals and officials gather to discuss events, there is a marked weariness with the hardships that being in a state of war for nearly 50 years have brought.

"We're tired of wars, of sacrifice. I'm prepared to live with the Israelis providing they play fair," said Mohammad Haidar, a 52-year-old businessman in a coffee house near the cavernous Hammadiyah Souk.

"But it's really very, very difficult for us to trust these people after all these years," he added.

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## Financial Markets

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Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.6225	1.6135
Deutsche Mark	1.5280	1.5242
Swiss Franc	1.3634	1.3603
French Franc	5.1800	5.1795**
Japanese Yen	121.65	121.62
European Currency Unit	1.2840	1.2841**

USD Per STG  
European Opening @ 8:30 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.59	3.59	3.81
Sterling Pound	8.75	7.62	7.07	6.62
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.62	8.18	7.62
Swiss Franc	5.8*	6.00	5.93	5.75
French Franc	9.78	9.56	9.25	8.75
Japanese Yen	3.93	3.75	3.68	3.68
European Currency Unit	10.00*	9.93	9.37	8.87

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	343.10	6.65	Silver	3.78	.081

\* 21 Karat

## Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.683	0.685
Sterling Pound	1.0990	1.1045
Deutsche Mark	0.4475	0.4495
Swiss Franc	0.5013	0.5038
French Franc	0.1320	0.1327
Japanese Yen	0.5603	0.5621
Dutch Guilder	0.3975	0.3995
Swedish Krona	0.1184	0.1192
Italian Lira	0.0510	0.0513
Belgian Franc	0.02164	0.02175

## Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	0.03100	0.03200
Saudi Riyal	0.1818	0.1828
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2500	2.3050
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1865
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.7730
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1865
Greek Drachma	0.3475	0.3565
Cypriot Pound	1.4950	1.5070

## CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	24/10/92	Close	25/10/92	Close
All-Share	154.43		154.23	
Banking Sector	116.99		116.52	
Insurance Sector	168.10		166.39	
Industry Sector	202.11		201.69	
Services Sector	222.37		222.00	

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.5810/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2403/08	Canadian dollar
	1.5410/20	Deutsche marks
	1.7330/50	Dutch guilders
	1.3750/60	Swiss francs
	31.63/67	Belgian francs
	5.2225/75	French francs
	1327/1334	Italian lire
	122.55/65	Japanese yen
	5.7690/790	Swedish crowns
	6.2200/300	Norwegian crowns
	5.8650/750	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$341.35/341.85	

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	OFFERING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAND BANK	39.725	3.650	3.500
JORDAN BANK	36.916	2.150	2.170
THE JORDAN BANK	6.505	3.330	3.330
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	16.830	2.900	2.800
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	9.646	2.510	2.480
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	27.866	3.010	3.050
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3.983	2.980	2.950
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	50.295	3.990	4.000
ARAB BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT/OLD	155.834	1.440	1.430
ARAB BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT/NEW	29.887	1.870	1.880
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	63.589	3.880	3.880
WESTERN BANK	15.933	3.300	3.250
WESTERN BANK INVESTMENT FOR JORDAN	62.689	5.570	5.550
BANK OF JORDAN	29.272	10.500	10.250
ARAB BANK	38.400	120.000	120.000
AL-FAYZ AL-AMMAN INSURANCE	1.395	4.440	4.450
JORDAN INSURANCE	15.080	2.900	2.900
JORDAN PRIME INSURANCE	53.829	2.860	2.860
JORDAN PRIME INSURANCE	11.694	2.070	2.070
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	1.745	1.700	1.700
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	6.507	3.900	3.900
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	5.400	2.780	2.700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1.285	2.300	2.300
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5.084	1.400	1.390
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	11.708	4.280	4.290
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	4.403	1.260	1.270
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	320	2.200	2.200
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSTRUCTION HOTELS	126.832	2.150	2.150
JORDAN HOTEL CORPORATION	1.300	2.350	2.350
HAZARDOUS WASTE, REMEDIATION & MAINTENANCE	2.440	1.130	1.120
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	10.785	1.200	1.200
JORDAN GOLF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	162.609	0.840	0.830
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	102	0.670	0.670
ARAB POWER CONVERTING & TRADING	11.872	7.560	7.560
JORDAN BATTERY	241.852	0.670	0.670
ARAB POLYMER INDUSTRIES	77.955	0.800	0.800
ARAB POLYMER INDUSTRIES	14.565	0.730	0.730
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	10.270	20.800	20.800
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	70.466	0.920	0.920
REGIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	120.532	0.680	0.680
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES & INVESTMENT	8.806	3.430	3.430
INDUSTRIAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	53.313	10.850	10.850
THE JORDAN WOODWORKS	23.202	0.650	0.650
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	23.238	0.750	0.750
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	4.370	4.750	4.900
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	55.569	0.000	0.000
JORDAN PAPER INDUSTRIES	22.562	2.850	2.850
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	120.330	1.340	1.340
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	31.836	0.930	0.920
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	39.514	4.850	4.880
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	24.577	11.350	11.350
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	6.475	3.700	3.700
RAVIA INDUSTRIES	245	3.450	3.450
WOODEN INDUSTRIES	154.938	2.310	2.310
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATCH/JEWELRY	2.558	1.140	1.170
SEWING & WEAVING	3.335	3.000	2.970
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JEWELRY	2.350	2.750	2.800
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	356.821	0.750	0.750
JORDAN CABLE INDUSTRIES	864.077	0.980	0.970
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	22.799	1.390	1.380
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	3.951	1.940	1.920
JORDAN PORTLAND CEMENT INDUSTRIES	0.410	0.410	0.410
UNIVERSAL WOODEN INDUSTRIES	78.573	1.490	1.480
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,003.082	2.800	2.840
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.802	0.360	0.330
THE ARAB PETROLEUM	378	18.000	18.900
GRAND TOTAL	4,562,474		

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 8050  
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET: 1.00 21771

## CORRECTION

Mr. Mufleh Agel, a senior Arab Bank official and the author of the specialized study, the summary of which was published in the Jordan Times issue of last Thursday-Friday, has sent us a letter apologising for a calculation error he made in one of the tables published by Banks in Jordan magazine.

The letter, addressed to the Association of Banks in Jordan with a copy to the Jordan Times, points out that the average return to shareholders' equity of Amman Investment Bank should not have been a negative 52.5 per cent and should not have been calculated in the first place.

The Amman Investment Bank made a JD 1.6 million profit in 1991 but since the average shareholders' equity was negative, the ratio of return to equity was meaningless and should have been left blank, the general manager of Amman Investment Bank wrote to Mr. Agel to clarify the miscalculation to the association of banks and the Jordan Times.

## Société Générale posts higher profit in 6 months

PARIS (Agencies) — Société Générale, France's third largest bank, has recorded an overall net profit of French francs 2,250 million during the first six months of this year, up 15.7 per cent compared with the first half of 1991.

The bank, the biggest private bank in France network, registered limited growth of loans and deposits, compared to previous years. The limitation was due to the drop in company investment, the cautious attitude of households towards new borrowing and the general economic environment. In contrast, income from fees and commissions grew by 9.6 per cent. The total of savings collected and held by the network in unit trusts (SICAV), mutual funds (FCP) and in the form of capitalisation products came to FF253 billion at 30 June 1992, an increase of 11.7 per cent.

Overall, net banking income rose by 5.5 per cent. Overheads were up by six per cent under the influence of the bank's important investments. Gross operating income for the first half of 1992 came to FF5.75 billion, an increase of 4.5 per cent compared with the same period of 1991.

Active management of the group's portfolio of industrial and commercial shareholdings allowed profits to be realised on disposals and brought exceptional profits to FF189 million for the period, compared with a loss for the first half of 1991 of FF162 million.

## Kohl hints at new German unity taxes soon

DUESSELDORF (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who won his last election promising no new taxes, called Monday for a tax hike to finance German unity.

He warned it could come earlier than the 1995 deadline his party supports.

Mr. Kohl, announcing his U-turn at a congress of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU), gave neither a date nor any details of taxes his party says should start in 1995 to help pay off old East German debts of 400 billion marks (\$265 billion).

Instead, he sketched out an ambitious savings plan coupled with a veiled threat of tax hikes even earlier if business, labour and state and local governments did not support it.

Mr. Kohl has long shied from facing up to the enormous costs that Germany's hasty reunification in 1990 caused and sought refuge in a euphemism to announce his change of course. "I assume that improvements in revenues will be needed to overcome this financial legacy (of East Germany)," he told the opening session of the three-day CDU congress here.

Then, staring stern-faced at the 1,000 delegates, he added: "This is the hour of truth."

The chancellor said he would work out the details of his ambitious five-point recovery plan in "solidarity pact" talks between business and labour and in negotiations for a new balance in transfer payments between rich and poor states.

"Anyone who in these weeks and months refuses to contribute through savings or reordering of priorities will be responsible if the people's burdens must be increased earlier and higher," he said.

The CDU leadership agreed Sunday evening to support tax increases in 1995, when the old East German debts start falling due and the old West German system of subsidies from rich to poor states must be reformed to



Helmut Kohl

include the impoverished east.

The chancellor, who began speaking of a tax late last week as Germany's growth prospects dimmed, said the country was in the grips of a dramatic change that meant everyone must bear his fair share of the burden.

The economics ministry has lowered its forecast for western German gross national product (GNP) growth in 1993 to between one and 1.5 per cent from earlier predictions of 2.5 per cent.

"Friends, let's not fool ourselves — united Germany needs more than just a continuation of old policies," Mr. Kohl said.

He chided fellow west Germans for being "spectators of German unity" instead of actively helping bring together the long-split societies by tightening their belts.

Mr. Kohl's five points stressed cuts in federal subsidies, a "solidarity pact" with moderate wage increases, savings in state and local government, a streamlined bureaucracy and a new balance in transfer payments between rich and poor states.

He gave no details for the controversial issue of federal spending cuts, saying only that the 1993 budget would go ahead as planned but deep cuts would be needed in future.

Although not yet fleshed out, Mr. Kohl's plans have already met with heavy criticism from his coalition partners, the Free Democrats (FDP) and Bavaria's Christian Social Union (CSU).

"The tax increases brought up by the CDU are a coffin nail for the coalition," FDP finance expert Wolfgang Weng said.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel of the CSU has also denounced any talk of a tax increase as "damaging for our policies of economic consolidation and for the economy itself."

## U.S. regulators see no impending banking disaster

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. banking industry is not on the brink of disaster and no costly crisis rivaling the savings and loan bailout is lurking to surprise taxpayers after the November election, regulators have said.

Federal Reserve Governor John Laware told a news conference that banks were enjoying record profits this year and many of the problems associated with sour real estate and Third World loans are behind them.

Most of the 12,000 commercial banks meets or exceed federal capital standards, he said.

"I don't think those facts in any way support a picture of an industry on the brink of disaster," Mr. Laware said. "There are troubled banks remaining, some of them sizeable, and some will fail. But there are no sudden surprises, and the orderly resolution of most deeply troubled (banks) is manageable and well in hand."

Mr. Laware, who heads an interagency group of banking regulators, and Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC). Acting Chairman Andrew Hove held the news conference to denounce a study published in the Washington Post predicting that whoever wins the Nov. 3 presidential election will face a major banking crisis.

Andrew Hill, one of the authors of the study, accused regulators of refusing to level with Americans about banks' "true conditions."

The report, called "Banking on the Brink," said that more than 1,000 banks would be insolvent if their assets were given a fair market value and that 1,000 more banks would be near insolvency. Taxpayers, it said, could be slapped with a \$75 billion tab to pay for the failures. That would

be on top of the \$200 billion bill they are paying for the savings and loan crisis.

Mr. Laware and Mr. Hove said the study's estimates were "alarmingly high and almost totally out of line with our analysis and realistic expectations."

Between 100 and 125 banks with \$77 billion in assets will fail next year, Mr. Hove said. He said there were about 1,000 banks with assets totalling \$550 billion on the FDIC's problem bank list. The FDIC's fund is \$5.5 billion in the red, taking into account \$16 billion that has been set aside to cover expected bank failures.

Not all problem banks will fail, Mr. Laware said. He predicted that bank profits would continue to improve and that many banks will drop off the list, which has shrunk from 1,500 just a few years ago.

"The banking system is going to come back rather strongly from the period of the last several years," Mr. Laware said.

Mr. Hill, however, blasted the response by regulators and singled out the FDIC in particular. "This is a simple but sloppy hatchet job that tries to deflect attention from the real story: The FDIC's unwillingness to be straight with the American people about the true conditions of the American banking industry," Mr. Hill said in a statement.

"If the FDIC is no better at reading bank books than it is at reading ours, the taxpayers are going to be in for a nasty surprise," said Mr. Hill's statement.

So far this year, a little more than 80 banks have been closed with assets totalling \$30 billion. The FDIC anticipates that for all of 1992, the assets of failed banks will total between \$30 billion to \$40 billion.

Mr. Soros said he borrowed heavily to take his stand against sterling because he was confident the German Bundesbank wanted devaluations in Britain and Italy, but not in France.

In the weeks leading up to "black Wednesday" — Sept. 16 — Mr. Soros sold pounds, betting \$10 billion that Prime Minister John Major would fail to keep sterling above its floor in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

He won. Mr. Major lost. The onslaught by currency speculators forced Mr. Major to pull sterling out of the ERM, dealing a death blow to the government's central plank of economic policy. The pound was subsequently devalued by 12 per cent.

"We must have been the biggest single factor in the market in

the days before the ERM fell apart. Our total position by black Wednesday had to be worth almost \$10 billion," Mr. Soros told the Times newspaper.

The depth of the British recession made Mr. Major's ERM commitment to an exchange rate of 2.95 marks untenable, he said. Mr. Soros, known in Russia and eastern Europe as an educational philanthropist, was identified at the weekend in the United States and Britain as "the man who made a billion out of the pound's collapse" and as one of the world's biggest currency speculators.

"A billion is about right as an estimate of the profit, though dollars, not pounds," he said. The profit was not his personal gain but that of the \$4 billion quantum fund and three smaller offshoots he manages.

"Speculation can be very harmful, especially in the currency markets. But measures to stop it, such as exchange controls, usually do even more harm," he said. The only answer is to have no exchange rate system but a single currency in Europe, Mr. Soros said.

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## Bosnian Serbs reportedly poised to take Muslim-held town

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs said Monday they were poised to seize the Muslim-held town of Jajce, while commanders of Bosnia's three warring armies prepared to start face-to-face talks in Sarajevo.

Colonel Milutin Vukelic, a Bosnian Serb officer, told the Serb News Agency (SRNA): "It is a matter of hours before a Serb flag is hoisted over Jajce."

His assessment could not be independently confirmed, but the Belgrade-based news agency, Tanjug, said Serb forces had entered parts of Jajce, a town of about 40,000 people northwest of Sarajevo, and were battling its Muslim defenders toe-to-toe in the streets.

The government-controlled Bosnian Radio reported Monday morning heavy shelling of Jajce but did not give details.

If Jajce, a mainly-Muslim centre under siege for several months, falls to the Serbs and Croat fighters succeed in capturing the nearby town of Travnik, the mainly-Muslim forces loyal to the Bosnian presidency would be squeezed out of a large chunk of territory in the centre of their newly-independent country.

Some 300 people are reported to have been killed in and around Travnik during fighting between Muslims and Croats over the past few days.

Hours before the meeting of the mixed military working group in Sarajevo, chaired by U.N. Protection Force Commander



Bosnian children cheer Egyptian soldiers of the United Nations force patrolling in Sarajevo

General Philippe Morillon, mortar bombs slammed into the old town district. One woman was killed and two people seriously wounded.

The talks were expected to discuss practical arrangements to restore intermittent water and electricity supplies to the Bosnian capital, surrounded by Serb fighters for seven months.

Sarajevo saw no other major action overnight apart from occasional anti-aircraft cannon and machinegun fire raking the old town, the area around the burned-out parliament building

in the centre and new Sarajevo, Bosnian police said.

The western district of Dobrinja, near the airport, took some mortar bombs before and after midnight.

Smouldering hostility between Bosnia's three main factions has flared sharply over the past week.

The alliance between Croats and Muslim forces has crumbled, with Croats asserting themselves in their self-proclaimed Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia, an area they control in the southwest of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They are reported to have intimidated and

in some cases attacked Muslims there.

Meanwhile, international mediators will present a draft constitution for embattled Bosnia Tuesday in what diplomats said was a clear attempt to head off a carve-up of the country by rebel Serbs and Croats.

Fred Eckhard, spokesman for mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, told Reuters they would present the document at a meeting of the 17-member Steering Committee of the Geneva conference on former Yugoslavia, which they jointly chair.

## Rebels leave Tajikistan capital

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — Government forces appeared to have driven rebel gunmen from Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe Monday, but bodies still lay in the streets and fears ran high of another onslaught.

"I am the president and we are fully in charge," Acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov told Reuters as he inspected wreckage inside the bullet-scarred parliament, seized Saturday by supporters of ousted former Communist leader Rakhmon Nabiyev.

"We are working for a peaceful solution, but peace with guns is impossible," he added, standing amid shattered furniture, broken glass and spent ammunition.

Outside, truckloads of gunmen, armoured cars and tanks rolled along the main street and across parliament square.

People trudging to work in the early morning appeared to pay little or no attention to blood-spattered bodies at a pedestrian tunnel.

The bodies of two young men, eyes staring, lay crumpled on the

steps. Four more were scattered below, victims of fierce weekend gunbattles for control of the city centre.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands have died in a civil war over the last five months in Tajikistan, a former Soviet Central Asian state bordering on China and Afghanistan.

Neighbouring states and Russia fear that the violence, fuelled by arms and ammunition smuggled in from Afghanistan, could widen into a regional war.

Another fear is that chaos could promote the strengthening of radical Islamic groups that played a role in Mr. Nabiyev's removal in September. The attack by pro-Nabiyev rebel forces this weekend brought the mayhem closer.

The rebels, led by one-time parliamentary leader Safarali Kenjayev, pulled out of Dushanbe after Sunday afternoon agreement between Mr. Iskandarov and Mr. Kenjayev that parliament should rule on Mr. Nabiyev's removal.

But few in Dushanbe were optimistic about prospects for the session, due to take place in Mr. Nabiyev's home region under the supervision of Russian troops. Mr. Nabiyev took refuge in Leninabad after being forced at gunpoint to resign.

Prime Minister Abdulmalik Abdulajonov, inspecting the parliament building with Mr. Iskandarov, said he did not believe the parliamentary session could take place.

"I have no great hope for a peaceful solution," he said.

Mr. Iskandarov said pro-Nabiyev forces had regrouped at the town of Tursunzade, near the border with Uzbekistan.

Troops and residents of Dushanbe said they feared opponents of Mr. Iskandarov's administration, an uneasy coalition of parliamentary democrats and Islamic groups, could return in greater force to the Tajik capital.

Mr. Iskandarov said Mr. Kenjayev was impeding the parliamentary session by setting unacceptable conditions.

## Blasts rock Georgian-held Sukhumi

MOSCOW (R) — Three explosions rocked Sukhumi, government-held capital of the rebel Georgian region of Abkhazia, killing several people, Russia's Defence Ministry said Monday.

It was not yet known how many people had died in the Sunday blasts, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Hundreds of people have been killed since August in fighting between Georgian troops and Abkhazian rebels backed by volunteers from Russia's north Caucasus.

The conflict flared up after Tbilisi moved troops into the rebel region which wants more independence from Georgia.

Georgian authorities in Tbilisi said they had no information about the blasts. The Russian spokesman said "the explosions are believed to be an act of sabotage."

The conflict over Abkhazia has strained relations between Moscow and Tbilisi.

A spokesman for the Russian-controlled Black Sea Fleet said Georgian forces were blocking the withdrawal of its equipment from the Black Sea port of Poti in Georgia proper. Georgia wants the Russian army to leave, but not to take its equipment.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted the spokesman, Sergei Ozerov, as saying the situation in Poti had got worse and Georgia's

forces were using tanks and pontoons to block Russian troops from getting ashore and to sea.

"The evacuation of refugees and the withdrawal of the Black Sea forces from Poti is more and more reminiscent of a combat operation," Mr. Ozerov told TASS.

Russian troops are withdrawing from Poti to avoid demands from local militants for weapons. But a sizeable Russian force is still based in the former Soviet Transcaucasian republic.

Georgian officials have accused Russian troops in Abkhazia of supporting the separatists. Several hundred people demonstrated over the weekend in front of the troops' headquarters in Tbilisi.

## S. Africa killings spark civil war fear

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) said Monday genocide was being used against its followers after a weekend massacre of at least 20 people.

Political analysts warned Saturday's raid on a home near Folweni township in Natal could stoke a brutal new spiral of violence in the Indian Ocean province, scene of endemic fighting between Inkatha and the rival African National Congress (ANC).

Women and children and supporters of Zulu-based Inkatha were among those shot Saturday in Mphushini Reserve by armed men with AK-47 rifles. At least six ANC supporters were killed by unidentified attackers in Folweni Friday evening.

"We're on the edge of an intensified civil war," said Mary De Haas, an unrest monitor in Natal for the Democratic Party. Zulu-based Inkatha said it was too early to lay blame but added there were suspicions that the armed wing of Nelson Mandela's ANC carried out the raid at the Mphushini Reserve.

"We have an absolute genocide of IFP supporters on the Natal south coast," said Inkatha spokesman Kim Hodgson.

"The killing certainly follows a pattern of massacres in which ANC people have been involved — they've either been arrested or killed at the scene — so our immediate suspicions point to the

ANC," Mr. Hodgson said. "But it is too early to attribute categorical blame." He said the death toll from Saturday's attack had risen to 24 but there was no immediate confirmation from police.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus called for calm. He said the perpetrators should be brought to book but there was no evidence that the ANC armed wing — known as Spear of the Nation, or MK — had carried out Saturday's killings.

Mr. Niehaus denied MK was out of control. The ANC leadership suspended its operations in August 1990 as a concession during political reform talks with Pretoria.

Mr. De Haas said Mphushini was controlled by a local Inkatha strongman, "A-One" Kuzwayo, whose followers were suspected of carrying out repeated raids on the neighbouring Folweni settlement with the collusion of the police.

Mr. De Haas said MK might be responsible for some recent attacks but added that generally in Natal "there is no doubt that there is a lot of (Inkatha) collusion with the security forces."

The killings coincided with renewed gloom over efforts to improve relations between Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said at the

weekend he had been unable to resolve a dispute over critical remarks Mr. Mandela made about Inkatha in an address to the United Nations Security Council earlier this year.

Mr. Kaunda was called in to adjudicate when Mr. Buthelezi complained to South Africa's multi-party National Peace Committee about a passage in Mr. Mandela's speech that said Inkatha was a stooge of the white minority government.

In a separate development, gunmen carrying automatic rifles and grenades ambushed a military bus Monday in the black homeland of Ciskei, killing a soldier and injuring seven people, a military spokesman said.

Four attackers stopped the bus, jumped on and opened fire, starting a gunfight with Ciskei soldiers on the bus, said Cmdr. Wicus Van Der Linde, a spokesman at the joint Ciskei-South African Defence Force Headquarters in the nearby city of King William's Town.

After the attackers left the bus, one of them hurled a grenade through the back window, said Cmdr. Van Der Linde.

Tensions have been high in Ciskei since Sept. 7, when security forces in the nominally independent homeland opened fire on thousands of ANC supporters and killed 28. The ANC had tried to march on Bisho, the homeland capital, to protest Ciskei's military government.

## Liberian rebels attack Monrovia airfield

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Rebel forces Monday bombarded the eastern suburbs of the capital in an apparent attempt to tighten the noose on Monrovia by taking the city's airport.

The seven-nation force sent by other West African countries to end the war returned fire with mortars. The force has set up artillery at the airport to defend the critical facility.

Shelling and submachine-gun fire also cracked from the direction of Monrovia's port, where the 7,000-man West African force has its headquarters.

For two days, its troops have been battling rebels around swamps to the northeast of the port and suburbs east of the port. Relief workers said a baby was killed in the shelling and its mother and two men were injured. Casualty figures in the rebels' 11-day press on Monrovia have been sketchy, but hospitals say at least four people have been killed and 100 wounded since Saturday.

UNICEF representative Carl Tinstman said he was concerned about 400 war orphans who have taken refuge in the former American Community School near the airport.

"I'm worried, and I don't know how the kids are," Mr. Tinstman said. Rebel leader Charles Taylor has warned civilians to evacuate to schools, where he says they will be safe.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) Sunday night, Mr. Taylor said his men would fight until they took Monrovia.

He failed in a weeks-long siege in 1990 in which 40,000 civilians starved to death before the Economic Community of West African States sent an intervention force, which bombed his fighters out of the eastern suburbs and forced a ceasefire.

Mr. Taylor has since consistently resisted ceasefire terms aimed at paving the way for national elections. The current fighting broke out two weeks ago after Mr. Taylor claimed he was attacked by the West African force.

Task force Commander Maj. Gen. Abertunji Olurin of Nigeria told reporters Sunday his men were on the defensive.

"I am not at war. I am a peacekeeper, but if I am attacked I will defend myself," said Gen. Olurin.

Observers including relief agencies are privately criticising the West Africans for allowing into Monrovia two other warring factions, the Armed Forces of Liberia and allied Sierra Leone-based rebels.

Both factions are largely composed of members of the Krahn tribe, the tribe of President Samuel Doe, who was executed in 1990 as the fighting raged.

Mr. Taylor's troops are primarily from rival tribes

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Russia does not know of KAL survivors

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's intelligence service said Monday it had no information to support a claim by a South Korean politician that some passengers aboard an airliner shot down in 1983 off eastern Russia may have survived. Press spokesman Yuri Kobaladze expressed surprise over the claim that not everyone aboard KAL (South Korean Airlines) Flight 007 was killed when it was downed by Soviet fighters off Sakhalin Island. Opposition Democratic Party deputy Senn Se-II was citing what he said was a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency report. He said he would produce the report later Monday. "The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service has no information further to or different from that provided by our president," Mr. Kobaladze said. "We had trouble finding even parts of the plane. But let the documents be produced," he added. President Boris Yeltsin earlier this month presented a Russian report on the shooting down of KAL 007 with its 269 passengers on a flight from New York to Seoul, via Anchorage in Alaska.

#### Moscow urged to review fleet appointment

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov has appealed to Russia to reconsider the appointment of a new second in command of the disputed Black Sea Fleet, his ministry said Monday. "This question was to have been decided by the presidents of the two countries," a ministry spokesman said by telephone. Officials said Mr. Morozov had asked Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to re-examine the appointment of Vice-Admiral Pyotr Syvatoshev as second in command of the 380-vessel fleet. Kiev says Moscow failed to consult Ukrainian officials on the appointment and accused Russia of violating an August agreement on joint operation of the fleet for three years. Ukrainian officials at the Black Sea Fleet Headquarters in the port of Sevastopol said Adm. Syvatoshev had taken up his duties last week despite an order from Kiev barring him from doing so. They said that since starting work Adm. Syvatoshev had spoken out against dividing the fleet as provided for by August's accord signed in the Crimean resort of Yalta by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk.

#### Former Portuguese premier dies

LISBON (AP) — Adelino Da Palma Carlos, Portugal's first prime minister following nearly 50 years' of ultraconservative dictatorship, died Sunday after a prolonged illness. He was 87. A constitutional lawyer, Mr. Palma Carlos was appointed prime minister by President Antonio De Spínola in May 1974 in the aftermath of a bloodless revolution led by leftist army officers which overthrew the dictatorship of Marcelo Caetano. Lt. Col. Vitor Gonçalves, a member of the Revolutionary Council set up after the coup, told Lisbon's TSF Radio Mr. Palma Carlos, a "great patriot," was the man who led Portugal's transition from a one party state to multiparty democracy. "As our first prime minister after the April 25 (revolution), we had total trust in him to initiate the way towards democracy," Col. Gonçalves said. Mr. Palma Carlos' provisional government included Portugal's current president, Mario Soares, then a Socialist, who had the foreign affairs portfolio, and Alvaro Cunhal, leader of the Communist Party.

#### IRA says it set off London bomb

LONDON (AP) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) said Monday it planted a bomb in an apartment building where a former lawmaker responsible for Northern Ireland lives. The explosion Sunday night caused no injuries but shattered windows in the central London building where former Northern Ireland Secretary of State Lord Prior Lives, police said. "Although on this occasion the device was a relatively small one at the luxury apartments of senior British political and military figures... it brings home to those who implement repressive legislation and those who enforce it... that they cannot sit in London in comfort and safety while nationalists suffer because of their policies," the IRA statement said in a statement released to Dublin media. The IRA has claimed responsibility for most of the 14 previous bombings in London since Oct. 7. One man was killed and 17 people injured in the current bombing campaign. Police said they were given no warning of Sunday's blast of the seven-storey apartment building. Lord Prior, 64, who served as Northern Ireland secretary from 1981-84, was abroad on business, police said.

#### Storm floods Manila

MANILA (AP) — Tropical storm Colleen blew into the South China Sea after dumping heavy rain on the Philippine capital Monday and passing the avalanche-prone slopes of the Mount Pinatudo volcano north of the city. Authorities reported that one woman drowned in a town west of Manila and more than 1,300 residents of three flooded communities in the capital were evacuated. Officials raised alerts for avalanches in the Pinatudo area, but none had been reported as of midday. An undetermined number of residents who were told to leave river channels near the volcano and returned to their homes by noon, the state-run Philippines News Agency reported.

## Lithuanian election strengthens former Communists

VILNIUS, Lithuania (R) — Preliminary results of Lithuania's first post-Soviet parliamentary elections showed Monday a coalition led by former Communists could have a decisive majority in the legislature.

First returns released by the Election Commission showed the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), the former Communists, had won 42.6 per cent of votes, or 35 out of 70 seats, in the proportionally-elected half of parliament.

In the other half, where 71 deputies are being elected under a first-past-the-post system, the DLP won all of the first eight seats.

Other results were either yet to be counted or indicated the need for a second round-off in some constituencies between DLP candidates and their main opponents from the nationalist Sajudis Movement, the commission said.

Sajudis, led by parliament chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, won only 21.6 per cent of the votes in the proportionally-elected half of parliament giving them 18 seats.

The strong performance of the ex-Communists was highlighted by the easy victory of DLP leader Algirdas Brazauskas over a Sajudis leader.

## U.S. presidential race tightens in final week

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Bill Clinton is pressing his pitch as the candidate of "hope and change" while poking fun at President George Bush and Ross Perot in the waning days of the presidential campaign.

"This country needs a president committed to jobs," Mr. Clinton told a rally here. "We need to build up this country."

Mr. Clinton and running mate Sen. Al Gore were headed for yet another bus trip Monday after weekend polls showed the three-way presidential race tightening. Mr. Clinton and Sen. Gore, after appearing live Monday morning on a CBS "town meeting," planned to roll across North Carolina in a form of campaigning they have utilised repeatedly since the end of the Democratic convention.

In what could be the campaign's final bus tour, Mr. Clinton and Sen. Gore will visit traditional Republican bastions that Democrats this year see as a clear target of opportunity.

President Bush was headed to three states where he's behind Mr. Clinton in the polls — Colorado, New Mexico and Iowa.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush took swings at Mr. Perot, putting aside the gentle treatment they have accorded him in the past. The billionaire independent has climbed in the polls to near 20 per cent.

While no one had any expectations that Mr. Perot could rise far enough in the polls to be a true contender, the Dallas businessman was once again poised to be

a factor in a number of key states — potentially affecting the outcome in those states.

Mr. Perot, who ventured out on the stump at rallies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania for the first time since he renewed his campaign Oct. 1, said Sunday that a plot by Republican operatives to smear his daughter by distributing a "fake photograph" of her before her wedding had prompted his abrupt withdrawal from the campaign in July.

"It's preposterous... It never happened," said presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. "There haven't been any dirty tricks against Ross Perot. This business about his daughter is just crazy and he's been told that and he knows that."

Mr. Clinton, speaking at a rally Sunday in the Detroit suburb of Sterling Heights, took pokes at both Mr. Bush and Mr. Perot.

Noting earlier reports — disputed by Mr. Perot — that Mr. Perot had hired a private detective to investigate Mr. Bush's children, the Arkansas governor said Mr. Perot was claiming "that Mr. Bush is investigating his children. Mr. Bush has already said that Mr. Perot investigated his children. They're worried about investigating each other's children."

"I'll tell you what, I want to investigate your children — their future, their problems, their promise," he told a cheering crowd of more than 10,000.

Mr. Bush told a rally in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sunday that Mr. Clinton had misled Amer-

icans into thinking "everything was wrong with this country" and he renewed his charges that Mr. Clinton lacks the character and trustworthiness to sit in the Oval Office.

Mr. Bush also seized on a report in the Sunday Telegraph of London that Mr. Clinton's campaign had hatched a secret deal with the head of the European Commission to delay a world trade agreement until after the election.

Asked about the report, Mr. Clinton said: "No. Nothing to that."

As Mr. Bush sides said the president didn't expect to be back at the White House until after election day, there was talk on the Clinton campaign of going around-the-clock for the final three days.

Meanwhile, the additional voter support Mr. Perot picked up after the presidential debates came at Mr. Clinton's expense more than President Bush's, by a 3-2 ratio, according to a new national poll.

The Times Mirror Centre for the People and the Press said its poll, which was released Sunday, found many voters have reconsidered Mr. Perot and that Republican attacks have hurt Mr. Clinton's image, but opinions of Mr. Bush have not changed much.

Bush slipped 1 point to 34 per cent. Mr. Perot shot up 11 points to 19 per cent.

A breakdown shows that Mr. Perot's 19 per cent is made up of 6 per cent who defected from the Democratic nominee, 4 per cent who switched from Mr. Bush and 3 per cent won over from "undecided."

The percentage who rated Mr. Perot the least reliable candidate fell from 30 to 17, while those rating Mr. Clinton least reliable rose from 21 per cent to 32 per cent. Mr. Clinton also lost ground and Mr. Perot gained on measures of honesty.

Mr. Clinton also remained out front in tracking polls, which average in fresh results from small samples each night to gain early warning of any trends.

ABC News reported that its poll of 1,130 likely voters interviewed Thursday through Saturday showed Mr. Clinton with 44 per cent to Mr. Bush's 34 per cent and Mr. Perot's 17 per cent. The poll had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

The latest results from Gallup's tracking poll for Cable News Network and USA Today had Mr. Clinton at 41 per cent, Mr. Bush at 30 per cent, Mr. Perot at 20 per cent, with a 3-point margin.

Seven major multi-night polls since the debate have measured Mr. Clinton's lead anywhere from 3 to 19 points, with an average result of 11 points. That's not much different from the average lead of 12 points in four polls taken between Mr. Perot's re-entry Oct. 1 and the first debate.

## COLUMN

### China, Japan to exchange pandas

PEKING (AP) — China and Japan will swap pandas next month so that Japan can gain a male panda suitable for breeding, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. The agreement came as Japanese Emperor Akihito toured China, the first Japanese sovereign ever to do so in 2,000 years of contact between the two neighbours. Xinhua said China will send 7-year-old Ling Ling to the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo on Nov. 5. The Japanese Zoo will reciprocate by sending 5-year-old You You to China a week later. Both pandas are males, but the Japanese Zoo wants the swap so it can breed Ling Ling with its other pandas. You you was born to two of the Japanese zoo's pandas. The Ueno Zoo has four giant pandas — the only ones in Japan. Xinhua did not say where Ling Ling currently lives.

### Edison receives college degree 61 years after death

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP) — Inventor Thomas Edison finally received his college degree Sunday, 61 years after his death. Thomas Edison State College conferred on its namesake a bachelor of science degree for lifetime achievement. "Academically speaking, Thomas Edison was a late bloomer, witnessed by the fact that it took him 61 years to get his degree," said Barry Sloane, Edison's great-grandson, who accepted the honour. College President George A. Fruit said the degree was not honorary but was earned by Edison, who was self-educated and whose inventions include the light bulb and phonograph. Members of the Edison Papers Project at Rutgers University submitted 17 portfolios detailing the inventor's research. After evaluating the material, college faculty granted the degree with a specialty in applied science and technology. Mr. Fruit said, the same process is used to award academic credits to the college's older students, many of whom returned to school after years of work.

### Windsor Safari Park closes down

LONDON (R) — Britain's Windsor Safari Park, one of the largest wild animal centres in Europe, closed leaving its tigers, lions and elephants to an uncertain fate. The park near Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle west of London went into receivership 10 months ago because of falling attendance. It had remained open in the hope of being sold as a going concern. But David Broten, spokesman for receivers Cork Gully, said it had now closed due to press speculation over its future and concerns for public and staff safety. Mr. Broten said there was no threat to the well-being of the 600 animals at the park. Other zoos were rallying round to look after them until the park's future was decided.

### Pakistan society protests against bustard hunting

KARACHI (R) — Conservationists protested against Pakistan's decision to give licences to five members of Arab royal families to hunt the rare Houbara bustard. Tanveer Arif, president of the Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE), said he had protested to the government against the issuing of licences to five Gulf princes to hunt the migratory bird in southern Pakistan's Sind province. Mr. Arif said he would appeal in the Sind High Court, which cancelled similar permission to an Arab prince in August. The Sind High Court set aside a government order of June 10, 1991 allowing members of Arab royal families to hunt in southern Thatta district up to 1995, lawyer Kamil Shaikh said. Officials of the Sind Wildlife Management Board said there was a complete ban on hunting of the bird by Pakistanis, but visitors from Gulf states could obtain special hunting permits from the government.

### Train service begins in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Officials hope new commuter trains will help ease congestion on the area's crowded freeways, but suburbanites say the ticket prices may keep them from climbing aboard. The Metrolink Rail Line begins serving suburban valleys Monday, offering free rides for the first week. Ticket prices after that will be based on distance. For example, a commuter from Moorpark to Los Angeles, a 47-mile (76-kilometre) trip, will pay \$12 for a round-trip ticket and \$176 for a monthly pass.